Lawmakers to MVA: Bring back Japanese tourists. » PAGE 2

Why is it so cold these days? Meteorologist explains. » PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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JKPL board, staff reach 'temporary compromise'

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Staff of the Joeten Kiyu Public Library and the board of the state library have reached a compromise: Employees will continue to work while JKPL executive director John Gonzales would stay away—for now—from the library's premises.

JKPL staff, Gonzales, board members, and Office of Personnel Management met yesterday at 9:30am but, according to sources, it was not until close to 5pm that board members reached a "temporary compromise" with library staff.

Various sources said the compromise means employees would resume work today, Feb. 24, without the presence of Gonzales for "a while."

Sources added that the JKPL board will look deeper into the matter that led to a JKPL staff walkout last Ash Wednesday.

When sought for comment, JKPL staff said they were told to "keep silent" until a formal public notice is issued.

Sources also said that attorney Pam Brown, despite her appearance before the meeting, was not allowed to attend the meeting itself.

Last Wednesday morning, board members intervened after library employees were found sitting outside the li-

See JKPL on Page 4

Inos to mediate Garapan land dispute

Inos

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos plans to mediate an ongoing legal tussle between two investors over a property in Garapan.

According to acting press secre-

See INOS on Page 4

2 hit instant lottery jackpot

JON PEREZ
The two winning scratch cards in the Northern Marianas Sports Association's lottery fundraiser.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Two individuals became $1,000 richer when they hit the jackpot in the Northern Marianas Sports Association's scratch card lottery fundraiser.

Lili Borja and a man who declined to be named won back-to-back in the lottery that's only on its third week since being launched.

NMSA officials and Pacific Lotteries Ltd. of Australia representative Steve Gibson confirmed both winning tickets and the winners were given their cash prizes on the same day.

Borja, a regular shopper at New XO Market in Gualo Rai, was surprised to see three $1,000 on one of the three Lucky 7's tickets she bought yesterday.

See LOTTERY on Page 4

Chalan Piao store robbed at knifepoint

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Surveillance footage of the robbery showed a man in a blue shirt and a pair of short pants grabbing a package containing a small knife and using it as the weapon to rob the store.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» Surveillance camera leads to identification, arrest of suspect

A surveillance camera led to the arrest Sunday night of a 23-year-old man who allegedly took off with $850 cash during an armed robbery at Blue Sky Supermarket in Chalan Piao Saturday afternoon.

Alvaro Joseph Cabrera, also known as A.J., was served with an arrest warrant in Afetnas on Sunday at 10:23pm on charges of robbery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and disturbing the peace.

Cabrera

Police said several family members identified Cabrera after detectives showed them a video footage of the robbery.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho kept the $10,000 cash bail the court earlier imposed in

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Local

Lawmakers to MVA: Bring back Japanese tourists

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

Lawmakers are urging the Marianas Visitors Authority to come up with plans to bring back more Japanese tourists to the Commonwealth to further stimulate the economy.

Japan has been one of the Commonwealth's biggest source markets for tourism but its economic difficulties and the decision of Japan Airlines to stop flights to the Commonwealth has resulted in the number of Japanese tourists dwindling drastically.

Currently, tourists from China and Korea outnumber tourists from Japan, according to the latest report by MVA. But Japan is still a significant market, considering that tourism has now become the CNMI's top industry.

"We need to bring back Japanese tourists," Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) said during a meeting with MVA officials on Capital Hill yesterday.

JOEL D. PINAROC
Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio gestures as he makes a presentation to lawmakers, including members of the House Committee on Tourism, on Capital Hill on Monday.

"The Japan market is what started the CNMI's economy, let's find a solution to bring the tourists back," the lawmaker said.

MVA officials met with lawmakers, including members of the House Committee on Tourism that Guerrero chairs.

The MVA was given an audience at the House to give an overview of the tourism industry. The last time the MVA met with government was in 2012.

For Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), it might also help if the MVA targets a younger segment of the Japanese market, to complement older tourists visiting the islands.

For Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), the question is how to bring back Japan Airlines, which used to bring tourists directly from Japan.

Most tourists from Japan now fly via chartered flights, at a frequency of twice a day.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio said the agency is looking at low cost carriers as one way to encourage more tourist arrivals.

Tenorio assured lawmakers that the MVA office in Japan continues to "encourage more flights in the CNMI" and that the MVA continues to find ways to develop tourism on the islands.

"We do appreciate the lawmakers engaging the MVA to know the shared challenges that we face as far as tourism is concerned," Tenorio said, adding that he personally feels that there is no added pressure for the MVA to bring in more tourists.

He said MVA would welcome more meetings with lawmakers, if needed.

Company says claims of torture, conspiracy only rely on lawyer's unsworn allegations

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Universal Group Development Inc. (Saipan) asserts that businessman Wanzhong Yu's claims of torture and international conspiracy are without evidence and appear to rely solely on his lawyer's unsworn allegations.

Universal Group, through counsel Samuel Mok, filed on Friday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI its opposition to Yu's motion to dismiss Universal Group's lawsuit and motion for joinder.

Mok stated that according to Yu's attorney, Mark Scoggins, Yu was coerced into resigning his position as president of Universal Group as a result of torture by the Chinese government.

Mok said Yu was allegedly the victim of an international conspiracy wherein he was supposedly abducted during a trip to China by the Chinese government and indicted for fraud and embezzlement by a corrupt provincial prosecutor and sentenced to prison by a corrupt Chinese court.

Mok said Yu was allegedly subjected to physical torture for 22 months until he agreed to resign as president of a Saipan dumpling/grocery company and transfer his shares to a third-party.

Mok said Yu's fantastical explanation for why he resigned as president and transferred his shares is devoid of any competent proof.

In fact, Mok said, Yu did not even provide a sworn declaration under penalties of perjury describing the specific facts underlying his alleged conspiracy theory, let alone any corroborating evidence.

"Instead, Yu appears to rely solely on the unsworn fact allegations made by his attorney to substantiate his claim of coercion even through Yu's attorney does not have any personal knowledge of the purported abduction, torture or imprisonment being claimed," he said.

Mok said Yu should not be allowed to maintain the fiction he is still president of Universal Group, given the fact that he has failed to offer any proof in support of his position.

On the joinder issue, Mok argued that Yu's motion to join in the lawsuit two of Universal Group's corporate officers Mingnan Jin and Jinwei Guo should be denied because the two officers are not necessary parties to this action.

Mok said it is unclear how either Jin and Guo can claim an interest to the $225,000 at issue as required by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Universal Group sued its alleged former president and shareholder, Yu, for conversion and First Hawaiian Bank for breach of contract.

Universal Group alleged that Yu and the bank have blocked the company from gaining access to $225,000 of its own funds from a business savings account.

Yu, through Scoggins, maintains that he is still president of the company and that he was detained in China for 22 months caused by political influence exerted by his former business partners.

First Hawaiian Bank has already asked the court to allow it to deposit with the clerk of court $224,558.71 in Universal Group's savings account and to be discharged from the lawsuit.

Yu filed cross-claims against Jin and Guo for conversion, false imprisonment, malicious prosecution, abuse of process, defamation, and trespassing.

Yu, through Scoggins, alleged that during his detention, his wife and daughter-in-law on Saipan were forced to sign several documents purporting to transfer all of his business property and personal belongings such as gold jewelry, diamonds, and precious stones, all worth over $300,000.

Workers' visa concerns to be discussed in DC conference

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

Immigration concerns of foreign workers in the CNMI will be one of the major talking points at the 2015 Senior Plenary Session of the Interagency Group on Insular Areas in Washington, D.C.

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres will represent Gov. Eloy S. Inos in the conference, according to acting press secretary Ivan Blanco.

Blanco said the government recognizes the need to plan ahead regarding these immigration concerns as 2019 is "just four years away."

In 2011, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services established the Transitional Worker nonimmigrant visa classification for foreign workers in the CNMI.

Employers of nonimmigrant workers who are ineligible for other employment-based nonimmigrant visa can apply for temporary permission to employ workers in the CNMI under this new classification, which is scheduled to end on Dec. 31, 2019.

After 2019, many workers may have to leave the Commonwealth or apply for another kind of visa.

Blanco said Torres will give a briefing to the governor as soon as he comes back from the meeting this March.

The question lingering among private and public sector stakeholders is what is going to happen after 2019, when foreign workers will have to leave the CNMI or apply for a new visa.

The concern becomes even more significant, with the expected influx of investments from foreign businesses, particularly in the area of tourism.

Blanco said by 2019, the Commonwealth is likely to still depend on foreign workers to fill the thousands of jobs that are expected to open up once foreign investors start building resorts and other recreational establishments.

The approval of a casino law on Saipan is also expected to lure more investments. An exclusive casino license has already been granted to Best Sunshine Ltd.

Student at Guam school accused of taking firearm on campus

HAGATNA, Guam (AP) —A 17-year-old Guam student is accused of taking a firearm onto school property.

Pacific Daily News reports the St. Paul Christian School student was taken into custody Wednesday after the firearm was confiscated from the teenager.

Guam police spokesman A.J. Balajadia says the student was taken into custody on suspicion of offenses that include possessing a firearm without a firearms ID card and possessing a firearm in a school zone.

Balajadia says the student did not make any threats and no one was injured.

The teenager has been released to his parents.

ON DIVERT AIRFIELD PROPOSAL

'Hybrid approach' must be permissible within previous DEIS work

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

U.S military leaders have recently proposed a "hybrid approach" inclusive of Tinian and Saipan for the Air Force's Divert and Exercises Project in the CNMI. But this, it was learned, must still be within the range of options or alternatives already discussed and evaluated in relevant environmental documents within the ongoing National Environmental Protection Act process.

So far, Tinian and Saipan have only been studied as separate and exclusive Divert and Exercises alternatives locations.

The proposed hybrid approach appears to be a "third alternative" not formally included in the draft environmental impact statement for the Divert and Exercises Project to be located in the CNMI and published in 2012.

In this DEIS, Saipan was listed as preferred alternative number one. Tinian was second, and an option of "no alternative" was also discussed.

But *Saipan Tribune* learned that even if a hybrid alternative was proven viable under NEPA—as impact studies have been or will be done for both islands—the military would still need to lease property at the civilian airports on both islands, currently owned by the Commonwealth Ports Authority, in order to move forward with the proposed hybrid approach.

Ad-hoc discussions between the CNMI and the military in recent years have clarified the military's position; however, no formal discussions or talks regarding the leasing of property on Tinian or Saipan has been initiated.

Still, it was reported in 2013 that the military eyed a 50-year lease for some 33-acres of land around the Saipan air and seaport.

For their part, CPA has been set in their position that the Divert Project be sited on Tinian and not on Saipan. The Inos administration has voiced the same position.

Earlier, after briefing CNMI lawmakers on their September resolution that essentially said "no" to siting the Divert and Exercises Project on Saipan, CPA executive director Maryann Lizama re-emphasized her position, when asked if a "collaborative" resolution between lawmakers and CPA was in the works.

"CPA has already issued its resolution regarding divert and the position remains unchanged: Divert shall be sited and permitted on Tinian and CPA will support an Airport Layout Plan to that end. Whether the House and Senate will issue resolutions on the issue articulating the Legislature's position on divert is a policy decision left to the representatives including Precinct 1," she had said.

Why is it so cold these days? Meteorologist explains

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Unaccustomed to the cold, many people in the Commonwealth are wondering about the persistence of the chilly weather in the last several weeks.

National Weather Service meteorologist William Brandon Aydlett told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the CNMI has been experiencing a modified mid-latitude air mass, which equates to drier air and slightly cooler temperatures.

Aydlett said cold fronts routinely exit the Japanese coast and move eastward. Often the very southern tail end of cold fronts will drop down over the Mariana Islands and bring increased cloudiness, showers, and gusty winds, he said.

To the north, Aydlett said, is the cooler and drier air—and lower dew points—which leads to lower humidity, cooler nights, and high day time temperatures without the fangs of a high heat index.

He said such conditions are quite typical for the far Northern Islands, especially north of Pagan, this time of year.

This month, Aydlett said, the shear lines have been consistently dropping well south of Guam.

"Before one drier air mass becomes adjusted by the inherent tropical climate of our region, the next shear line drops south, and so we've been in that cycle for a few weeks now," he said.

This explains, he said, why nighttime lows have been in the low 70 degrees, and even 69 degrees on Feb. 18.

As to when the hot and humid weather will return, Aydlett said the Mariana Islands is in the heart of the dry season now and that will continue for another few months.

He, however, stated that in the latest model runs, he has been noticing the next cold front, now over Japan, doesn't drop as far south later this week.

At the same time, he said, dew points are expected to increase from the mid-60 degrees early this week into the low 70 degrees around midweek and stay there for the remainder of February.

"Low 70s are more typical for this time of year. So I'm thinking we will be going from our 'abnormally dry' of the past few weeks to the 'normal dry' of dry season later this week," Aydlett said.

The meteorologist said it sounds like a really big deal for a 6-7 degree dew point swing, but for islanders who are acclimatized to nighttime lows of upper 70 degrees and daytime highs of upper 80 degrees, it will feel much more normal and less like Hawaii weather.

"We're still expecting very little rainfall for at least the next week or so, though," he added.

Sex offender allegedly punches girlfriend over her FB account

A sex offender was arrested again, this time for allegedly punching his girlfriend at their house in Kagman II last week during an argument over her Facebook account.

Dickson Teruo Cosmes, 30, was served with an arrest warrant Friday night in Kagman III on charges of assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and violation of the Sex Offender Registration Act.

His bail was set yesterday at $10,000 cash. Preliminary hearing is on March 4 at 9am.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho appointed assistant public defender Michael Sato as counsel for Cosmes. Assistant attorney general Emily Cohen appeared for the government.

Police detective Rhonda C. John stated in her report that a police officer responded to a residence in Kagman II, last Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 8:40pm, where a domestic violence incident reportedly happened.

The officer learned from the alleged victim that her boyfriend, Cosmes, punched her face after accusing her of looking for a boyfriend in Facebook.

The victim told police that Cosmes was holding their baby at the time, and when she tried to get the baby from him, he turned and punched her face hard. She took a butane gas container and struck him with it on the head.

Police arrested Cosmes at the scene at 9:21pm that same day but was later released.

The victim told police it was the third time that Cosmes punched her face.

John said that in her interview with Cosmes at the Department of Corrections last Wednesday, he denied punching his girlfriend, but admitted he slapped her face after she punched him.

He said as he walked away, she hit her with a butane gas container on the head. He said she punched his face repeatedly.

Police learned that on Dec. 11, 2001, Cosmes admitted to the offense of rape and served prison term.

Police found out that there are minors in the house, in violation of the Sex Offender Act, prohibiting him from staying at a residence where minors are present. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

NOAA Fisheries works with NMI to close fisheries data gap

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

NOAA Fisheries is looking to help close the "gap" in fisheries data in the CNMI, but funding and staffing deficiencies, as well as current survey methods, may pose challenges to this, according to Insular Fisheries Monitoring Program manager Kimberly Lowe last week.

Improved data would help the CNMI further monitor their resources to see if they are overfishing, if they are fishing sustainably, or even if something is happening to fisheries like habitat destruction from erosion choking up coral reefs, for example.

Lowe met with acting Department of Land and Natural Resources secretary Richard Seman earlier this month. She called Seman "very supportive of this effort," and they are working on "some good ideas together."

NOAA Fisheries has worked with the Division of Fish and Wildlife staff on fishery data collection on activities—from trolling, to hook and line fishing—but one of the things they are focusing on now is what they call "the gap" in data that occurs during late and early hours of the day.

"The CNMI's fisheries have changed quite a bit since the surveys began and we need to adapt to those changes. Funding is part of the deficiency. We could use more survey hours. Plus, the current methods may not be ideal to cover all fishing methods and ways of accessing the ocean," she said.

"For example, spear fishing is often hard to reach by monitoring shorelines or boat ramps, because fishermen may wade out to the edge of the reef and they are not reached to conduct an interview when they return."

They may be able to develop survey methods that better reach fishermen via a telephone survey or some other form of outreach, she said. Market surveys have worked fairly well for commercial fishermen "but that is only part of the picture," she noted.

Lowe said that Seman actually took part in DFW's fishing surveys as a young man and rose to become DFW director, and now secretary. "So he has an in-depth knowledge of this work," she said.

"As he [earlier] stated, part of the 'gap' is missed fishing activity that takes place during the hours when DFW is not at work," she said.

Right now, NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Fisheries Center is trying to help enhance staffing at DFW to improve their ability to cover more of the times of day and locations when

See NOAA on Page 4

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VFW AMERICAN FLAG DISPOSAL PROGRAM

VFW Saipan Post 3457, located on Palm Street in Garapan, announces a new program to assist the community by properly disposing of old, unserviceable American flags. It will be done in accordance with federal regulations on flag etiquette. This will be a no-cost service and flags may be dropped off at the VFW between 4:00PM and 10:00PM daily.

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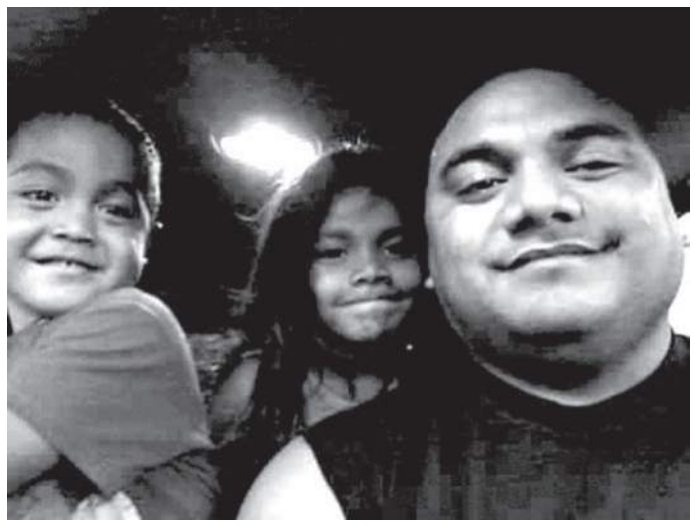
EARLY START

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delta Air Lines is now one of the exclusive sponsors of the Commonwealth Council of Arts and Culture's 34th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival that will be held on April 23 to 26. From left to right: CCAC folklore coordinator Gloriana Teuira, Delta marketing representative Chris Concepcion, CCAC's festival coordinator Parker Yobei, CCAC's executive director Angel Hocog, and CCAC's traditional/visual coordinator Feofaaki McMahon.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy birthday to our loving daddy, Myron Laniyo, who turns another year older today, Feb.24, 2015. May the good Lord bless you always and we hope you enjoy your day! We love you to infinity and beyond!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ERRATUM

In yesterday's Tourism Topics, the early bird registration deadline for Tagaman is Friday, Feb. 27 (not April 27, as stated).

INOS

From Page 1

tary Ivan Blanco, the legal dispute is one of the issues that is keeping the governor "busy."

Blanco said the governor wants the opposing parties to settle the row. "Governor Inos wants to help both companies," Blanco said. He declined to give more details.

H.S. Lee Construction Co., which is constructing a four-story commercial building on public land in Garapan, earlier asked for a temporary restraining order that prevents the Department of Public Lands from conveying any part of a 1,950-square meter property to another company or business entity.

H.S Lee Construction plans to build parking spaces for its commercial building, but Best Sunshine International, Ltd., another investor, reportedly opposed the carving of the lot because it is part of a big land that Best Sunshine needs for a casino project.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman issued the TRO on Friday, pending a hearing and determination of its motion for preliminary injunction.

Assistant attorney general Peter Prestley, counsel for DPL and DPL Secretary Pedro A. Tenorio, opposed the TRO, saying they do not see any "irreparable harm" to H.S. Lee Construction.

Prestley also said there's no lease agreement yet between DPL and H.S. Lee Construction regarding the land.

Attorney William Fitzgerald, counsel for H.S. Lee Construction, said the court can issue the TRO based on his client's verified complaint.

Fitzgerald said DPL first agreed to reserve 1,950 square meters for the 68 parking spaces of H.S. Lee's building, but the DPL later claimed the land will be needed for the casino project. Fitzgerald said if his client is not given the piece of land, the company will lose its investments.

KNIFEPOINT

From Page 1

issuing the arrest warrant. Assistant public defender Michael Sato was appointed Cabrera's counsel.

Preliminary hearing will be on March 3 at 1:30pm.

Police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that Department of Public Safety Central Dispatcher informed police officers about an armed robbery in progress at Blue Sky Supermarket on Saturday at 1:28pm.

Police officer Travis Hurst responded to the scene and relayed the descriptions of the suspect to the responding police units as relayed to him by the store's cashier.

Pangelinan said she and two other detectives arrived at the store, where the owner showed them the surveillance footage of the robbery.

The video showed a man in a blue shirt and a pair of short pants entering the store at 1:27pm and walking around. The suspect then grabbed a package containing a small knife and used it as the weapon.

The cashier said the suspect approached the counter, showed the knife, and demanded money. The cashier pointed to the cash drawer, where the suspect took $850 cash, then fled northeast.

Pangelinan said they proceeded to a compound near Blue Sky Supermarket and showed the footage through her cell phone to a man, who identified the suspect as his relative.

The family member said Cabrera, who was in the compound earlier that morning, created problems and then disappeared in a jungle near Blue Sky Supermarket.

Three other family members identified Cabrera in the footage, saying he was in the compound earlier that day.

One family member disclosed they had to call the police because Cabrera had a problem with a taxi driver.

LOTTERY

From Page 1

"I felt I was the luckiest person in the world. Surprised but I'm so happy," said the Garapan resident, who rewarded the cashier and other people present with $10 each.

The Koblerville man became the scratchies' first lucky winner on Sunday after buying 10 Hafa Adai instant lottery tickets with his friend at the Garapan Market.

His friend was actually the one who first played, purchasing four tickets and winning $3. He got curious and thought of trying his luck.

He was stunned and speechless after learning that he hit the $1,000 jackpot. Recovering his senses, he belted out a loud scream, surprising the storeowner and the other shoppers.

The lucky 29-year-old man, once his win was confirmed, held hands with his friend and the storeowner and started jumping for joy and yelling for over one minute.

"I'm going on a huge spending spree including buying the latest mobile phone. It's time to have some fun," said the man, who is finishing a business degree.

Gibson said there are a lot more $1,000 tickets—Hafa Adai, Lucky 7's, Quick Cash, and Tropical Treasure—that can be found and won in the NMSA fundraiser.

"We are thrilled to have our first winner this fast. It's all for a good cause and lots of fun to play. It's like a treasure hunt and it's easy to be a winner," said NMSA president Michael White. "Now, the question is who's going to be the next winner? I wish all the players good luck."

Tickets are $1 each. Scratch card players could win $5, $20, $50, and $100 instantly, which can be redeemed from the retail outlet.

NMASA hopes to raise funds to support its projects and maintenance of sports facilities.

NMSA, since becoming an independent and private group in 2013, is allowed to operate a public lottery system as stated in Public Law 18-49 and as defined in Section 9301 of Title 1 of the Commonwealth Code.

JKPL

From Page 1

brary's parking lot and refusing to enter the library and resume work. The staff walkout was reportedly triggered by a shouting match between an employee and Gonzales during an informal staff meeting in the morning.

Staff alleged that they walked out because of a "climate of fear." Other allegations included Gonzales obtaining information from the transition report of staff comments that were supposed to be confidential.

No access to transition interviews

In a separate interview, press secretary Ivan Blanco doubts if the staff actually saw Gonzales reading the transition report or having it on hand.

"For my part, the transition reports were delivered to my office in sealed boxes. My office is always kept locked. When I heard about the incident that the staff walked out at JKPL, that's when I opened JKPL's box for the report. Whoever got that transition report, [he or she] gave it to John prior to transitioning or prior to it being delivered to me," Blanco said.

When asked if Gonzales was allowed to review the report, Blanco said there is a summary of the transition report made available to the public, while other parts of the report such as staff interviews could not be reviewed.

"They are allowed to review the summary report, but not staff interview notes, in order for staff to speak freely and honestly on what to do to improve their working environment or how best to provide better services to the public, and how to become efficient. The staff expressed their feelings about management, how their process at work could be improved, or be efficient. So I don't know how he got the report," Blanco said.

When asked who was on the transition team for JKPL, Blanco said he could not remember. The names of the JKPL transition team could not be obtained as of press time.

JKPL staff told media last week that they would like a formal investigation into Gonzales' use of petty cash, education tax credit funding, and purchase orders, among others.

NOAA

From Page 3

fishermen come in.

"We are working with DLNR/DFW to provide staff (which means funding) and technical training to improve data analysis," noted Lowe.

PIFSC staff is also working with DFW to develop methods that better cover rare or hard- to-reach fishing activity, she said.

According to Seman earlier, the "gap" occurs between the hours of 10pm to 4am, as government operations that survey and weigh fish and interview fishermen occur from 4am to 10pm.

"We are looking at ways in which we can address that gap by perhaps creating new jobs or responsibilities that focuses on those particular timeline… Right now, the current staffing of the Division and Fish and Wildlife is enough for the kind of schedule that they have but to start working on the other hours may require additional staffing," he had said.

‘Strategic plan commits CHC to improving standards’

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has released its office strategic plan for 2015 to 2020.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña said in an email Sunday afternoon that the strategic plan is a commitment to improving the standards of service and care to the people of the CNMI and those who visit the islands.

“CHCC has made substantial progress in reaching autonomy while ensuring that quality services are provided consistently since the inception of the corporation in 2009,” she said.

The strategic plan involved the efforts of over a hundred staff, managers, community partners, and volunteers in identifying the corporation’s strengths and weaknesses to capture the desired outcomes for its varied healthcare systems on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

“As the CNMI addresses its socio-economic challenges, including stimulating economic growth, expanding educational opportunities, and improving capacity building of our local workforce, CHCC focuses on improving the overall health and wellbeing of its populace,” Muña said.

The strategic plan notes CHCC’s history, vision, values, and mission; pillars of excellence, corporate operational strategies, outcomes, and core healthcare strategies.

For the corporate operational strategies, CHCC has eight operating strategies: reorganizational plan, recruiting and retention plan, code of ethics, facility plan, electronic health record system, consumer satisfaction and community participation plan, financial business plan, and accreditation by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

CHCC planned outcome is for full CMS accreditation, stable financials, full compliance and clean audits, certified and licensed workforce, consumer and community partnerships and satisfaction, and decreased six major causes of death in the CNMI.

Accreditation

CHCC wants the hospital fully accredited by 2015 and maintaining standards in succeeding years. CHCC plans to incur no citations for non-compliance in future CMS survey visits.

Bi-annual review and annual mock surveys will be conducted beginning March 2015 by consultants who are experienced in CMS surveys, developing an action plan to better ensure that subsequent visits are uneventful.

Financial solvency

A comprehensive business plan will be developed this year to include maximum usage of all local and U.S federal funds and identify at least two new funding streams and revenue generating activities.

An assessment of all federal and local contracts will be completed in the first quarter of 2015, with a plan to ensure strict monitoring and compliance of expenditures of all funding, with monthly reports made.

“All funds that are unspent in its respective program year shall have a corrective action plan developed within five days from the end of the project term,” the plan states.

Clean audits, full compliance

An audit committee will be organized this year, consisting of a representative from the office of the chief financial officer, CHCC’s advisory board, and an accountant from the business community who will ensure that proposals are properly announced, received and evaluated for an auditing firm to conduct an annual audit within 90 days from the end of the CHCC fiscal year.

In the first quarter of this year, a monitoring system will be developed that will track the progress of every grant and contract for deliverables and expenditures, which CHCC officials will readily review.

Qualified workforce

This year, licensure and credentialing of key staff positions will be assessed.

Each employee will have a contract and a performance plan developed by the end of 2015 and a wage and salary scale will be completed by the end of first quarter of this year, with plans for annual revisions by June.

Staff will then get recognition of their efforts from their respective supervisor, CEO, and advisory board.

Also included in the strategic plan under core health care strategy is consumer satisfaction and a decrease in major causes of death and debilitation by recording and collecting more accurate date in the event of treating conditions of a patient.

“The goals and objectives outlined in the strategic plan reflect the desired outcomes that CHCC perceives as being critical to address the current state of health of our culturally diverse island population that live [on] the three main islands,” Muña said.

Taya Plastic Tuesday starts today!

Starting today, Feb.24, Tuesdays are getting greener. On this day (and all future Tuesdays) Joeten will not distribute any plastic bags—Joeten grocery stores and their customers will say no to plastic bags by using boxes, paper bags, or reusable shopping bags. On Tuesdays, Joeten stores will charge 10 cents for a paper bag and sell MINA-Joeten eco bags for 99 cents. A portion of the proceeds will support MINA’s efforts to protect and preserve our natural environment.

To kick off Taya Plastic Tuesday, MINA and Joeten are celebrating the effort with the help of CNMI volunteer superstars. The event will be held at Joeten Susupe, Joeten Dandan, Joeten Kagman, and Joeten Hafa Adai from 5pm to 6pm. During the event, volunteers will bag groceries and hand out reusable eco bags to encourage the community to reduce the use of plastic bags.

“This is a great way for the community to begin participating in our Plastic Bag Challenge campaign,” said program manager Becky Furey. “Starting this Tuesday, and every day after that, we challenge the CNMI to say no to plastic bags. MINA wants to thank Joeten for their commitment to decreasing plastic bag pollution around our island.”

To learn more about the Plastic Bag Challenge call MINA at 233-7333 (REEF) or email minaoutreach@gmail.com, ***(MINA)***

High surf until this afternoon

A large north swell generated by strong winds from a winter storm well east of Japan will maintain hazardous surf across the Mariana Islands until this afternoon, Tuesday, according to the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, citing data from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam.

A high surf advisory remains in effect until 6pm today. Hazardous surf of 8 to 10 feet on north facing reefs will gradually drop to between 7 and 9 feet this morning. Surf will fall below hazardous levels this evening. Hazardous surf will produce life-threatening rip currents along north facing reefs.

A small craft advisory remains in effect until 6pm today. Northeast winds between 15 and 25 knots will continue through this afternoon. The combination of a large north swell and wind waves will produce seas of 8 to 10 feet through this afternoon.

The public, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary exercise caution, especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets. Do not venture near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north facing reefs as rip currents will be life threatening. ***(HSEM)***

Tinian's Children's Park undergo cleanup

The Tinian Mayor's Office spearheaded Saturday a clean-up of the island's Children's Park, led by Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas, 15th Tinian Municipal Council vice chair Dianna H. Borja and the Tinian Legislative Delegation.

Members of the U.S. Air Force and the Australian Air Force joined in this effort, as well as community volunteers, 15th Tinian Municipal Council members and staff, Department of Public Works, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, and Department of Community & Cultural Affairs.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz, right, assists with the barbecue.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DCCA acting resident department director Bonnie Sn. Borja is joined in the cleanup by members of the U.S. Air Force.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas joins in cleaning the Children's Park with community volunteers, Mayor's Office staff, U.S. Air Force, Australian Air Force, 15th Tinian Municipal Council members and staff, Department of Public Works, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Department of Community & Cultural Affairs and the Tinian Legislative Delegation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The coconut trees at the Children's Park also gets some attention.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, secretary/treasurer Edwin M. Hofschneider, Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider, Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz, Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas, U.S. Air Force Col. David Mineau (Cope North Exercise Director), Municipal Council vice chair Dianna H. Borja, and Australian Squadron Commander John Haly.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

After lunch, members of the Australian Air Force engage the kids in a game. The group later donated some sports equipment for the island's Youth Program.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The service men and women who took part in the cleanup have their picture taken.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas thanks and bids the service men and women farewell.

CUC eyes change in rates, charges

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Customers may see some changes in their utility bill in the coming months, as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. looks to change, continue, or replace some of their charges or rates to capitalize on dropping fuel costs in the last 12 months.

CUC will go before the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission for these four requests: to change the levelized energy adjustment clause, or LEAC, rate reconciliation process; to continue their infrastructure surcharge that is set to expire in May; to replace their residential inverted block rate with a flat rate; and to eliminate their water electric charge.

The CUC board of directors unanimously approved these four requests in their board meeting last Friday. While the changes may increase the bills of customers, it was said that with dropping fuel rates, customers would still be better off than they were a year ago.

LEAC represents the fuel component of a power bill and accounts for 70 percent of electric rates on power bills. Right now, CUC only has authorization to change the LEAC if fuel prices go up or down by 4.5 percent.

A monthly LEAC would allow CUC to flow through changes in fuel costs each month, and avoid the time and expense of an extended reconciliation process.

This would also allow CUC to lower the LEAC by three quarters of a penny. Currently, the LEAC has a volatility factor that is added to the rate because of CUC's lack of cash reserves.

This factor is added so that if oil prices go up between the approval of one LEAC and the next, there is factored in an extra monetary cushion. This factor would be eliminated with a monthly rate.

CUC's second request is to extend and rename their infrastructure surcharge to allow them to continue the 2.1-cent per kilowatt hour surcharge for another 12 months to recover revenue.

At the board meeting, it was described that electric utility is "operating in the red." Allowing the electric utility to continue this 2.1-cent surcharge would enable CUC to basically break even, it was said.

It was also posed that the surcharge be renamed "system repairs," as the funds recovered from the surcharge will be primarily used to fund capital outlays and debt service.

The 12-month extension, if approved, would also request the right to re-appropriate or re-evaluate the appropriateness of the charge in 2016.

The third request is a proposal to replace the current residential inverted block electric rate with a uniform rate.

Right now, high volume users of CUC pay a disproportionate rate for their service, it was said. They pay a 16.8-kilowatt hour if they use more than 1,200 kw. The lowest volume rate users pay a 2.1 kWh rate.

The new rate would charge 6.9 cent per kilowatt-hour.

Instead of paying the current rate "where the more you use the more you pay," all residential will pay a flat rate of 6.9 cents, it was posed.

The rate of 6.9 cents would recover $1 million more revenue than the inverted block rate, it was calculated. This would enable the electric utility to recover its cost in servicing next year.

The fourth proposal is to eliminate the water electric charge to replace it with a 2.6-cent kilowatt increase across the board in electric rates.

But this may prove controversial, as the commission earlier found that water rates had to recover their costs, wastewater rates had to recover their costs, and so on.

If the commission opposes this proposal, CUC will argue that the commission itself has been "very inconsistent in implementing cost of service principles," it was said.

CUC will say the commission authorized a wastewater electric charge but then did not allow CUC to charge it to customers, because it would be too adverse to the ratepayers.

CUC will point out that the commission itself acknowledged that the water electric charge and the wastewater electric charge is a burden to ratepayers and that it should be eliminated and replaced by a nominal increase in the electric rate.

The proposal would increase electric rates across the board for all customers by approximately 2.9 cents.

In terms of revenue, CUC is not expecting additional revenue from changes to the LEAC reconciliation.

The systems repair surcharge would provide CUC an additional $4.7 million of revenue. That charge is supposed to expire in May.

The replacement of the inverted block residential rate with a uniform residential rate will provide CUC about another million dollars in revenue.

In total, this would provide CUC with approximately $5.8 million of additional revenue and allow them to break even in the next 12 months.

AG yet to act on land compensation law

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has yet to act on a formal request to enforce a Saipan local law that mandates the distribution of $800,000 to more than 200 Saipan families whose private properties were taken by the government for roads and other public uses.

Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) has written newly elected Attorney General Edward Manibusan to push for the implementation of Saipan Local Law 18-19.

Tebuteb, in his letter dated Feb. 18, is asking the attorney general to compel the Department of Public Lands to disburse the funds to landowners.

Manibusan, through one of his staff, said he has yet to read Tebuteb's letter.

The funds would be coming from "landing fees" that are generated from tourists visiting Managaha Island, a prime tourist spot in the CNMI.

But the payments have been delayed for some years now because questions about the law itself have risen, including questions on whether these Managaha landing fees are considered "land leases" or "fees," and whether they could be used to pay for land compensations.

Tebuteb, however, said SLL 18-19 "remains a valid CNMI law," because there is no court decision saying otherwise.

The $800,000 land compensation payments will come from $1 million in landing fees that the government, through the Department of Public Lands, currently holds.

Since September 2014, the Inos administration has long been considering going the route of a certified question to get legal guidelines for pending judgments or obligations such as land compensation. But that certified question has yet to be submitted.

Public Lands earlier said that if the courts opine that SLL 18-19 is constitutional, it will proceed to make payments to land claimants.

Bill seeks to increase retirees' share of casino license funds

A bill has been introduced seeking to increase the retirees' share of the funds coming from casino license payments.

House Bill 19-21, introduced by Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan), notes that because of the settlement fund agreement, retirees lost 25 percent of their pensions.

"Because of this and the continued increase in prices for basic commodities many residents found it extremely difficult to make ends meet."

H.B. 19-21 seeks to amend Public Law 18-56, which states that funds collected from the gaming license fees shall be used to address the retirement pension reduction.

Despite the enactment of PL 18-56, only a portion of the license fee was allocated for the payment of the 25 percent reduction in pension, the bill notes.

The law mandates a yearly $15-million license fee from the exclusive casino license holder.

The bill noted, however, that this annual license fee collection is short of what is actually needed to address the pension reduction, which is estimated to cost $17 million.

Despite this fact, only a portion (around $10 million) of the annual license fee is dedicated to address the pension reduction issue.

H.B. 19-21 intends to amend PL 18-56 "to dedicate the entire license fee collections for the payment of retirees' pension reduction."

Commenting on H.B. 19-21, Attao said one of his considerations in introducing the bill is the fact that "retirees continue to struggle financially."

Attao hopes the bill gets passed before Best Sunshine International Ltd., the exclusive casino license holder on Saipan, gives its next round of payment so that the $15 million payment will be given entirely to retirees' funds.

Attao said he expects that "not all will be pleased with the bill," but it will still aim to make sure that retirees get their benefits in full. ***(Joel D. Pinaroc)***

Marielle Kapileo lands on President's List

Marielle Kapileo has been named to the President's List of the Lone Star College-Cyfair for the fall 2014 semester.

The President's List is composed of students who have accumulated at least 12 credit hours and have a semester grade point average of 3.30 or above for 6 or more credit hours taken that semester.

"We congratulate you on being named to the President's List," said Lone Star College-CyFair president Dr. Audre Levy in a letter to Kapileo. "Your academic excellence reflects the commitment to high standards of student achievement that is the foundation of the college." ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP15-DCCA/NAP-036

SUBMISSION: MAY 11, 2015 TIME: 10:00A.M.

"TO PROVIDE CNMI NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM'S ELIGIBILTY SYSTEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, CNMI NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER **FEBRUARY 10, 2015** AT THE **DCCA-NAP OFFICE**. LOCATED AT THE JTV BUILDING IN AS LITO, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT **9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, ONFEBRUARY 27, 2015** AT THE DCCA-NAP OFFICE. **QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING AND ARE DUE NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE ODF BUSINESS, **MARCH 26, 2015** AND MUST BE DIRECTED TO MR. WALTER MACARANAS, NAP ADMINISTRATOR BY FAX TO (670) 664-2850 OR E-MAIL TO **dccanap@pticom.com**

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ LAURA T. OGUMORO
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JENEQUA LOZANO, Petitioner,	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 15-0031
-vs-	
WILLIAM LOZANO Respondent,	SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 66038 Beaufort, SC 29904 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2015

/s/ Clerk of Court

RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS customers that current billing of accounts are due on or before **Wednesday, February 25**. Payments not received by close of business on **February 25** will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00PM on that day.

To prevent temporary suspension, customers are hereby advised to kindly pay their bills on or before **Wednesday, February 25**. Disputed billings must be brought to IT&E's attention in person or in writing by **Wednesday, February 25**. Customers must pay any current amount due, to avoid disconnection.

If you have questions regarding billing or services please call Customer Service at 682-4ITE (4483) or visit our Customer Service or Business Sales Center – Middle Road, Chalan Laolao.

IT&E Life in Motion

To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:
SHELL Service Stations – up to 4:00pm
Chalan Laulau – up to 5:00pm
Tinian/Rota Office - up to 4:30pm
TSL Plaza – up to 6:00pm
Online payment – up to 9:00pm
PAY BY PHONE - 682-4ITE (4483)

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Interagency Coordinating council (ICC), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold its ICC meeting on Friday, February 27, 2015, at 8:30 am to 11:30 am, at the Board of Education Conference Room in Susupe. This meeting is open to the public; interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
- a. Roll Call
- b. Presence of a Quorum
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes

II. SSIP Target Setting

III. Coordinators Report

IV. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print, sign language or interpreter, must call 237-3029/19. Several days' notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/ Margaret Aldan
Chairwoman

/s/ Robin L. Palacios
Interim Coordinator, Early Intervention Program

Paid for by IDEA, Part C Funds.

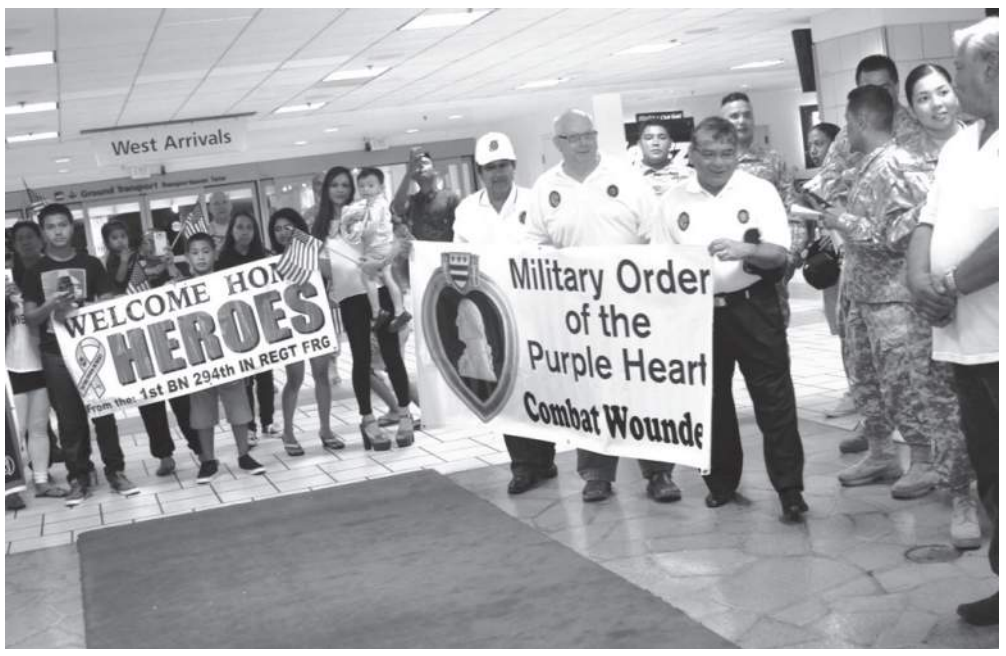
2 Guam soldiers return home to hero's welcome

Two soldiers, deployed with the 1-294th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Guam in 2013, returned to Guam on Saturday to a hero's welcome and a water salute.

Staff Sgt. Dennis Eber, H Co, and Sgt. Bill Meeks, B Co, were deployed with Task Force Guam, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan in 2013, but did not return home in 2014 as they were receiving medical treatment at the Tripler Army Medical Center, in Hawaii, for injuries sustained while deployed.

As a surprise to the soldiers, and courtesy of the GIAA Fire and Rescue units, a water salute honored their service and welcomed them home.

As with all our soldiers, Eber and Meeks served our country and our island with honor and pride. We are excited that they are finally coming home and will ensure they receive the deserving hero's welcome! ***(PR)***



MAJ. JOSEPHINE BLAS

Sgt. Bill Meeks and Staff Sgt. Dennis Eber are greeted by fellow soldiers, family, and friends as they arrive in Guam from a deployment with TF Guam in 2013.

MAJ. JOSEPHINE BLAS

Sgt. Bill Meeks and Staff Sgt. Dennis Eber, at center, finally return to Guam from a deployment with TF Guam in 2013.

MAJ. JOSEPHINE BLAS

Sgt. Bill Meeks poses with his spouse after finally returning to Guam from a deployment with TF Guam in 2013.

MAJ. JOSEPHINE BLAS

United Airlines flight UA201 is honored with a water salute as two Guam National Guard soldiers finally return to Guam from a deployment with TF Guam in 2013.

MAJ. JOSEPHINE BLAS

Staff Sgt. Dennis Eber poses with his family after finally returning to Guam from a deployment with TF Guam in 2013.

Guam airman is recognized as best in the Air National Guard

A member of the 254th Security Forces Squadron received accolades as the best of the best in the entire Air National Guard Security Forces.

Captain Alvin R. Alvarez received the Outstanding Air Reserve Component Security Forces Company Grade Officer Award.

"I am very grateful and appreciate the recognition, but it is our airmen and the leadership in my unit and in the Guard that deserves the accolades," said Alvarez.

He competed against Air National Guard company grade officers representing all 54 states and territories in the Security Forces specialty.

"This is another great accomplishment for our island. Captain Alvarez continues the tradition of putting the Guam Air National Guard on the map—he is also the first Air Guard officer to be recognized at the national level. I am extremely proud of Alvin and I extend my congratulations to him and his family," said Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino, The Adjutant General, Guam National Guard.

In 2013, Alvarez led a team of 31 Guam airmen on a deployment to Al Udeid AB, Qatar, in support the Air Force's Air and Space Expeditionary Force mission in Southwest Asia where they were primarily focused on the provision of base defense measures, inclusive of personnel and resource security. During that deployment, Alvarez and many of the Guam airmen were recognized for outstanding leadership and performance.

"I continue to be impressed with the caliber of our Guard airmen and the effort they put forth on a daily basis. In 2014, they were met with many challenges, but there were also some individual success stories. Our Security Forces members around the globe deserve a hearty thank you for facing these challenges head on while remaining the standard bearer of the professional Airman!" said Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clark III, Director, Air National Guard.

In his civilian capacity, he is a 5th grade teacher at Wettengel Elementary School in Dededo. He has been teaching in the Guam Department of Education for more than 17 years.

Alvarez joined the Guam Air National Guard in November 2003 as a Security Forces Airman and received his commission in November 2007. He is currently the deputy commander of the 254th Security Forces Squadron. Alvarez resides in the village of Yigo, with his wife, Hayette, and their three sons, Ethan, Tristan, and Caleb. ***(PR)***

Schools compete in CNMI Mock Trial this week

After months of preparation, over 70 private and public school students from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are expected to participate in the 17th annual High School Mock Trial Competition on Thursday, Feb. 26, and Friday, Feb. 27, at the Guma' Hustisia. The NMI Judiciary, in collaboration with the CNMI Bar Association and Public School System, will be hosting the competition.

Mock trial provides students with an opportunity to act as trial lawyers and witnesses before a panel of justices, judges, and lawyers. This year, students will be arguing *Commonwealth v. Siguenza*, a fictitious criminal action about a veteran police officer charged with the murder of a repeat criminal offender and suspected drug dealer.

The competition schedule is as follows:

THURSDAY, FEB. 26

■ Opening ceremony at 1pm in Superior Court Courtroom 217.

■ Preliminary rounds at 1:15pm and 4pm

FRIDAY, FEB. 27

■ Preliminary rounds at 9am and 12:30pm

■ Announcement of finalists at 3:15pm

■ Championship round at 3:30pm

■ Awards ceremony at 6:30pm in the Supreme Court courtroom.

The winning team will advance to the national tournament in Raleigh, North Carolina, to compete with other U.S. jurisdictions on May 14-17. Last year's champion, Saipan Southern High School, represented the CNMI in Madison, Wisconsin.

For more information, contact Mock Trial coordinator Nicole M. Torres at 236-9800 or nmimocktrial@gmail.com, or CNMI Bar Association executive director Suzanne Steffy at 235-4529; or visit http://www.justice.gov.mp/Mock_Trial_2015_2.php. ***(PR)***

Bellas to address SHRM meeting on Feb. 26

The Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter is pleased to announce its February general membership meeting on the topic of "Employer Policies Governing Computer, Cell Phone and Email Use in the Workplace," which will be presented by Timothy H. Bellas, Esq., of the Law Offices of Timothy H. Bellas, LLC.

Use of electronic media in one form or another is part of almost every business activity today. Not having an employer policy on the use of electronic media in the workplace can result not only in lost productivity but more severe employee problems. Find out the problems and possible solutions.

This lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Charley's Cabaret on Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015, from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

The presentation includes lunch and the cost is $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Micah Parico-Acuavera by phone at 234-1795 or by email to corpoffice@triplej-saipan.com or by email to Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com.

The Society for Human Resource Management is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The Society serves the needs of HR professionals and advances the interests of the HR profession. Founded in 1948, SHRM has more than 250,000 members in over 140 countries, and more than 575 affiliated chapters. The NMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. For more information about the NMI Chapter, you can visit our website at nmichapter.shrm.org. ***(SHRM)***

ESFDB holds school level STEM Fair

The students of Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja recently participated in the school's fourth annual STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Fair to culminate a year of scientific learning in the classrooms.

Each student from grades first to eighth developed a project with the help of their teachers or parents to present at the fair. The primary goal was to have fun and to develop a positive attitude toward Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, or STEM.

During the fair, these talented and brightest students had the opportunity to exhibit and discuss their projects with three judges. The judges were impressed with the various projects covering Mathematics, Life Science, Earth Science, Physical Science, Technology and Electronics, and Health.

Since its initiation by the school administrator and principal Carmen H. Atalig in 2011, teachers, administrators, and parents have been working together to ensure that students foster a love of STEM.

"It truly is a collaborative effort, bringing together administration, teachers, parents, and students who all have a common passion for STEM-related topics, with each entity playing a critical role in the education of our students," said Atalig. "It is our hope that students who participate in our school-level STEM Fair will develop a lifelong passion and interest in these subjects that will inspire, encourage, and prepare them for careers in science."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Seventh-grade student Angelo Lucero demonstrates and explains his science project to the judges.

"This STEM Fair is not just about getting judged and winning, but to educate our students at a younger age in order to create a career path for them," said ESFDB STEM coordinator Mary Rose Lucero. "These are not just students. I truly believe these are future scientists we're molding in the Rota community."

After the judging, the following students walked away as winners and were given certificates:

CLUSTER 1: KINDER – 2ND GRADE

■ Life Science Category: Star C. Mendiola, Titus Hugh T. Hocog, Marco Edward B. Hocog

■ Earth Science Category: John Henry V. Tacud

■ Physical Science Category: Sharlane Angel V. Balce, Diah A'Ina Q. Maratita

■ Health/Nutrition/Medical Category: Edward U. Maratita, III

■ Technology and Electronics Category: John Anthony N. Tobongbanua

CLUSTER 2: 3RD – 5TH GRADES

■ Life Science Category: Éclair Marj M. Ladao, Maria Althea C. Mendiola, John Kent Clitar

■ Earth Science Category: SonJoe S. Manuel, Autumn T. Hocog, Cyrus Atalig

■ Physical Science Category: MJ L. Mahusay and Brylle P. Reyel (tie), Marvin Clitar, Auston Marvin E. Guiawan

■ Mathematics Category: Kaitlyn Amber P. Balgoa

CLUSTER 3: 6TH – 8TH GRADES

■ Physical Science Category: Joshua James O. Puerto, Marjorie J. Banaag

■ Health/Nutrition/Medical Category: Aneshia Ciony M. Reyes, Jeremy John Atalig, II

■ Technology and Electronics Category: Angelo S. Lucero

■ Mathematics Category: Tyra Reese A. Calvo

■ Behavior and Social Science Category: Raimundo Y. Manglona

This year's school level overall winners are Edward U. Maratita, III (1st Grade), John Anthony N. Tobongbanua (2nd Grade), MJ L. Mahusay (3rd Grade), Brylle Angelo P. Reyel (3rd Grade), and Tyra Reese A. Calvo (8th Grade).

These overall winners will be heading to Saipan sometime in March to represent the school and the Luta community at the Public School System CNMI-wide STEM Fair.

"I am happy and excited, and my parents are proud of me," said 3rd grade student Brylle Reyel of his win at the school-level STEM Fair. "This is my first time and I will have a chance to compete on Saipan."

"I encourage parents to continue helping their child[ren] in this greatest educational event. Who knows where the future will take the child in this science fair. One thing is for sure, these bright young minds are evidence that science can be fun, not to mention rewarding," said ESFDB board president Edward C. Maratita Jr.

The administration, students, faculty and staff, and board of directors would like to express their appreciation to parents for supporting their children, and to the judges: Rev. Fr. Charlie Borja, Francisco S. Calvo, and Orly Soria, and Tita A. Hocog. ***(ESFDB)***

Half-day session at KHS on Thurs.

This is to inform all parents and guardians that Kagman High School students are scheduled to have a half-day session on Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015. Dismissal time will be at 12pm due to Faculty and Staff State Wide Professional Development. For more information, call the KHS main office at 237-3840 or email khsayuyu@kagmanhigh.org. ***(PR)***

Job Vacancy Announcement

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. has immediate job openings for the following positions:

Position: Cook (2)
Position Summary: To prepare and cook food for a small restaurant, control wastage, clean galley and kitchen appliances and work areas, to ensure cleanliness and a functional operation and to be able to prepare and cook food promptly, in presentable and delectable way.

Position Requirement: High school graduate. GED or equivalent plus 3 years work experience as cook in a restaurant or hotel. Preferably with experience in Western, Japanese and Chinese cuisines. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized and self-discipline. Must be able to communicate in English and Chinese language.

Position: Waitress (2)

Position Summary: To take orders and serve food and beverages to patrons on the Gaming floor and restaurant in the Club. Maintain the Club presenting a clean and presentable appearance.

Position Requirement: High school graduate. GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as waitress in a restaurant or hotel. Able to communicate clearly and possess a good command of verbal and written English. Preferably Chinese Speaking. Must have good organizational skills, self-discipline and problem solving skills.

Position: Bartender (2)

Position Summary: Require an energetic, professional staff member who has an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Focused on professionalism and providing a superior customer experience. The ideal candidate must possess in depth knowledge about Wines, Spirits, Cocktails and other drink ingredients.

Position Requirement: College Graduate Degree or equivalent. Able to communicate clearly and possess a good command of verbal and written English. A minimum of 2 years' experience working within a 4* / 5* star establishment as a Bartender.

Position: Electronic Gaming Machine Technician (1)

Position Summary: Responsible for the efficient running of all electronic gaming machines, servers and IT systems. Repair, service and maintain electronic gaming machines in order to minimize down time of machines which results in loss of revenue. Organize the activities of maintenance and technician contractors.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED, technical school plus a minimum of 3 years work experience as a slots or e-gaming machine technician in a casino or equivalent or any equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training in e-gaming machines repair, service, and maintenance skills can be demonstrated. Able to communicate clearly in and possess a good command of verbal and written English. Knowledge of various types of electronic gaming equipment used on casino floor and demonstrate the skills and ability to diagnose problems, take corrective action necessary, and ensure device is operational as quickly and efficiently as practical.

Position: Guest Service Manager (1)
Position Summary: To ensure that excellence in service is provided to Club's guests through Guest Services and that appropriate complimentary privileges are accorded Junkets and Premium Players and that all their needs and requirements are attended to.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED, technical school plus a minimum of 3 years work experience in a casino or equivalent or any equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training and at least minimum experience in Supervisory Position. Able to communicate clearly and possess a good command of verbal and written English and Mandarin Chinese. Excellent Public Speaking and communication skills. Computer literacy. Word Processing skills. Effective negotiating skills. Effective Problem solving skills.

Please send detailed resume by email to: hr@clubcsaipan.com. Deadline for submission of completed applications is on March 2, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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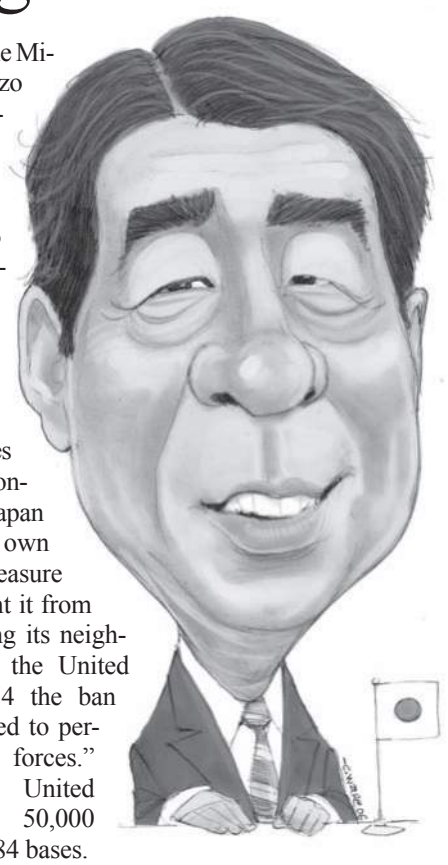
EDITORIAL

Re-militarize Japan? The prime minister sees a bigger role in the region



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is seeking revision of his country's post-World War II constitution to permit a more active role for its armed forces. The move poses big questions for the United States.

The United States wrote the 1947 constitution, barring Japan from having its own armed forces, a measure designed to prevent it from ever again invading its neighbors or attacking the United States. Since 1954 the ban has been interpreted to permit "self-defense forces." Meanwhile, the United States stations 50,000 troops in Japan at 84 bases.

The stimulus to Mr. Abe's move to change the constitution, expressed in a speech last week, was the constraint on Japan in responding to the Islamic State group's murder of two Japanese hostages. Mr. Abe also feels reinforced by the victory of his Liberal Democratic Party in December elections.

To amend Japan's constitution, a two-thirds majority of both houses of the parliament must approve, followed by ratification in a referendum. Many Japanese still favor keeping the country's military's hands tied, given the destruction it brought down on their heads in the last century.

From a U.S. point of view, the issue is complex. America wouldn't mind seeing a stronger Japanese military, backed by the large Japanese economy, to help keep China in check. Some Americans wonder why, 70 years after World War II, the United States is still maintaining bases in Japan, at great cost to the United States and with great savings to Japan.

Yet the U.S. government is content to have bases and troops on the spot in East Asia. A re-militarized Japan would make not only China but also U.S. ally South Korea nervous.

It is understandable that Mr. Abe would like to spread Japan's wings further in the region. At the same time, given domestic constraints and the ambivalent U.S. position, it is unlikely that the Japanese will change their constitution.

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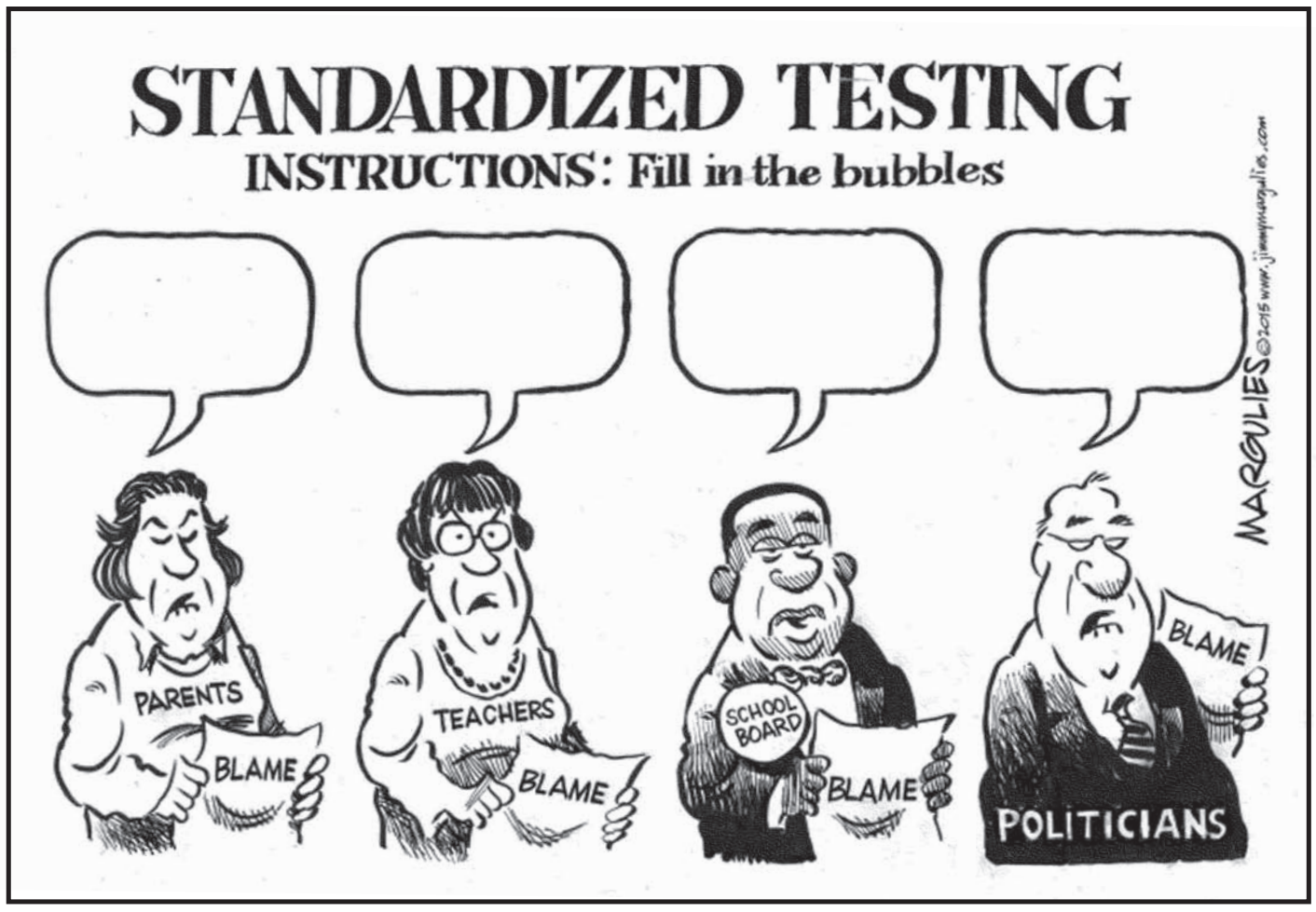

Slow down the revolving door from Congress to lobbying firms

By **SUZANNE DOVI**
Los Angeles Times

Suzanne Dovi, an associate professor at the School of Government and Public Policy at the University of Arizona, is author of The Good Representative. *She is currently a Public Voices Fellow with the OpEd Project. She wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

Frank Underwood of Netflix's "House of Cards" may seem like America's most corrupt politician. He will stop at nothing, not even murder, to advance his political career. But as a political scientist, I know that real-life corruption is much more commonplace—and frankly more boring. Usually it's just a job offer.

Remember Jack Abramoff, one of the best-connected lobbyists on Capitol Hill during the George W. Bush administration? In 2006, Abramoff was convicted on federal conspiracy, fraud and tax evasion charges. The scandal eventually led to the conviction of or plea bargains from 21 people, including White House officials, fellow lobbyists, congressional staffers and former Rep. Bob Ney (R-Ohio).

According to Abramoff's playbook on how to gain influence in Washington, you could "own" a congressional office as soon as you said to a top staffer, "You know, when you're done working on the Hill, we'd very much like you to consider working for us."

Those magic words win access and information more readily than campaign donations. With a job offer on the table, the official or staff member is all but working for the lobbying firm, on the taxpayers' dime.

This isn't just hypothetical. Political scientist Adolfo Santos has found that public officials who have plans to become lobbyists act differently while in office from their colleagues who don't. Interestingly, they are more successful at passing the bills they introduce than officials who don't go on to be lobbyists. Does this behavior reflect their desire to please their potential future employer or something else? We can't tell. What we do know is that public officials who are no longer thinking about reelection are freed from the sanctioning power of constituents.

Of course, the law recognizes problems with the flow of public officials to lobbying firms. Current law requires a two-year waiting period before a member of Congress or staffer enters the lobbying world. But two years is simply too soon.

Job offers, usually with much higher salaries, lure powerful public officials and their staff away from public office. Dick Armey, Tom Daschle, Tom Foley and Trent Lott, all once very powerful members of Congress, are among those who became lobbyists. According to OpenSecrets.org, more than 420 former members of Congress are registered lobbyists. (This number does not include former members who influence public policy without registering as lobbyists.) In addition, more than 5,400 former congressional staffers have left Capitol Hill to become federal lobbyists in the last 10 years.

One report found that congressional members, on average, get a 1,452 percent raise when they become lobbyists. And in another finding, from the Sunlight Foundation, lobbyists who list a government staff position on their resumes can command a median salary of $300,000.

Others earn more. Former Rep. Steve Largent (R-Okla.), for example, makes $1.5 million as a lobbyist for a trade group, more than he made as a Hall of Fame NFL wide receiver.

That means one can make much more from trying to influence legislation than from writing legislation. (New York Assemblyman Sheldon Silver, accused of earning millions of dollars in kickbacks, may be an exception.) And, interestingly, according to one study, former staff members can generate more revenue (and earn higher salaries) than former members of Congress.

But don't these public officials see the ethical problem of shifting allegiances from constituents to their potential future bosses? Often the shift can be so subtle that nobody notices, which reinforces an ethical obliviousness.

Of course, the timing of some hires can raise public suspicions. Take the case of John Pemberton, who was the chief of staff in the Environmental Protection Agency's division on air pollution programs. He raised eyebrows when he announced only one week after the agency eased regulations on air pollution controls that he would be a lobbyist for a company that owns coal power plants.

But in general, the media have a short attention span, and the public rarely tracks what their representatives do when they leave office. Only those of us with an interest in lobbying tend to keep track.

Perhaps we'd all keep a closer eye on post-Congress careers if we stopped thinking of corruption as blatant crimes like bribery, blackmail or even murder. That's what corruption looks like on television. What we need to recognize is that a prospective job offer is the moral equivalent of a blank check.

Two years is too short a time to make officials and staffers wait before they cash in on the personal connections and expertise they acquired as public servants. They should have to wait at least six years, the length of one Senate term. A six-year wait would significantly weaken their connections and diminish their earning power as lobbyists. And that would reduce the temptation to treat public service as a trial job period, acting on behalf of a future boss rather than the constituents.

Without a longer waiting period, the democratic system as a whole will pay.

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Texas judge's immigration ruling is full of legal holes

By ERWIN CHEMERINSKY and SAMUEL KLEINER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

U.S. District Judge Andrew S. Hanen's decision to block the Obama plan to defer deportation for about 5 million immigrants here illegally ignores a basic principle of government: For better or worse, the executive branch of government always has discretion as to whether and how to enforce the law.

The judge's lengthy opinion is wrong as a matter of law and, worse, is based on xenophobia and stereotypes about immigrants. It is very likely to be overturned by the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, and, if necessary, the Supreme Court.

Every president must set enforcement priorities on immigration, choosing whom to prosecute or whom to deport. No administration brings prosecutions against all who violate the law. Resources make that impossible, and there are laws on the books that should not be enforced.

Nor has any administration, Democratic or Republican, sought to deport every person who is illegally in the United States. For humanitarian reasons or because of foreign policy considerations or for lack of resources, the government often chooses not to bring deportation actions. In fact, as recently as three years ago, the Supreme Court in United States vs. Arizona recognized that an inherent part of executive control over foreign policy is the ability of the president to choose whether to bring deportation proceedings.

That is exactly what President Obama's executive orders on immigration have done. He has announced that the federal government will not seek to deport 600,000 young people who were illegally brought to the U.S. as children, or the undocumented parents of U.S. citizens and permanent residents who have resided in the country for at least five years. Millions of parents would be able to remain with their children because of this order and not need to live every day in fear of deportation.

The judge's order makes several basic legal mistakes. For example, the law is clear that a federal court has jurisdiction to hear a matter only if the federal court's decision would solve the problem. If the court's decision would have no effect, it would be nothing but an advisory opinion, which is prohibited by the Constitution. Thus, the Supreme Court long has held that a party has standing to sue in federal court only if a favorable decision would "redress" its injury.

The lawsuit in Hanen's court was brought by state governments that object to the Obama orders, claiming injury by the presence of immigrants here illegally. But the federal government deports only about 400,000 such immigrants a year. It is entirely speculative that stopping the executive orders would have any effect on the states that brought the suit. In fact, it is unclear what the judge's order will mean. He cannot force the Department of Homeland Security to deport anyone.

The central argument in Hanen's ruling is that the executive branch must promulgate a formal rule to defer deportation of these individuals. But the federal government constantly sets enforcement priorities without a formal rule. The Justice Department's policies to not prosecute possession of small amounts of marijuana or credit card fraud below a designated dollar level, for example, were not adopted by formal rules.

In fact, recent presidents, including Republican ones, have deferred deportations without formal rules. In 1987, in response to political turmoil in El Salvador and Nicaragua, the Reagan administration took executive action to stop deportations for 200,000 Nicaraguan exiles. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush, post-Tiananmen, stopped deportations of Chinese students. He kept hundreds of Kuwaiti citizens who were illegally in the United States from being deported after Saddam Hussein invaded their nation. In 2001, President George W. Bush limited deportation of Salvadoran citizens at the request of El Salvador's president, and ordered that deportation decisions include consideration of factors such as whether a mother was nursing or whether the person in question was a U.S. military veteran.

Judge Hanen, appointed to the federal bench by George W. Bush, has the reputation of being especially conservative on immigration issues. That tone underlies his opinion, especially as he spoke of immigrants being "terrorists" and "criminals." What he misses, though, is that the point of Obama's executive orders was to set enforcement priorities to focus deportations on terrorists and criminals and not on breaking up families.

It is not surprising that a conservative Republican judge would try to stop the Obama immigration policy. But it is just the first word and one unlikely to be sustained on appeal.

Erwin Chemerinsky is dean of the UC Irvine School of Law; Samuel Kleiner is a fellow at the Yale Law Information Society Project. They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Breakfast is a man's world, just ask him

By GINA BARRECA
THE HARTFORD COURANT

Why will men, including ones who don't cook any other meal, cheerfully make breakfast?

Is it because if they make toast without burning it, it becomes "amazingly good toast"? Is it because when they add a "magic ingredient" (taco-sauce) to their eggs, they can then call them "my mean scrambled eggs" or refer to themselves in the third person as "The Omelet Master"?

You know that if a guy can explain—without looking at notes from an electronic device—what it means to coddle an egg, he firmly believes he should have his own show on the Food Network.

Yes, of course, I'm making sweeping gender-specific generalizations, but somebody's got to do it.

Besides, I really believe this one is true. Breakfast is The Man Meal.

My husband is one of the tribe: He makes scrambled eggs so good I believe they were a factor in my decision to marry to him.

What made me hesitate briefly in that decision, however, was my husband's attempt to push his breakfast luck by going all out one morning and heating corned beef hash in a microwave. He plopped the grey mass straight from the can onto a plate, and then hit "reheat."

He looked smugly pleased with himself until he took the plate out of the microwave. The mess on it looked, and smelled, like offal. Instead of running for the hills—we have low hills near us anyway so it wouldn't have done much good—I saw it as a teachable moment. I cooked the food properly, pointing out that hash can only be enjoyed when the edges are fried just enough to be crunchy. That's how my husband makes it now, because his "famous hash" is everybody's favorite.

Many men have a technique that they regard as their signature. They consider this to be an exact science, as well a huge accomplishment, the kind of which is usually accompanied by the sounding of French horns. This is true even if his signature dish is a bowl of cereal. I once knew a man who boasted that he made a "killer" bowl of cereal. He used soy milk and put pieces of banana on top. I suspect the banana is what made it "killer."

The pattern of men cooking breakfast on the weekends and getting a great deal of praise for it no doubt grew out of the McCall's-sponsored traditional ideology that suggested mothers and wives were responsible for making every other meal. Husbands were expected to return home after a long day's work and wives were expected, in exchange, to be waiting at the door with a cold martini (not one they've been drinking for an hour, either) with a perfect meal in the oven and with cheerful children—already in their pajamas, ready to fall asleep at the drop of Daddy's hat.

Only on the weekends would the paterfamilias be able to exercise a measure of culinary creativity. One night he grilled and one morning he made breakfast.

He probably also encouraged everyone to gather 'round and watch him make breakfast; for men, being in the kitchen is a kind of performance art, says my friend Kim-Marie, requiring an audience for the full effect.

Another pal, Daniela says her husband "stands at the stove the entire time, watching the food cook with his arms crossed over his chest till it's time to flip something over or move it around while browning. That's it, the entire time, he's standing there with the timer going instead of multitasking while the food cooks by, let's say, setting the table or making coffee."

However it's done, breakfast is worth doing.

Like love, breakfast is something people skip because they consider it more trouble than it's worth. Some folks think breakfast, like love, will keep them in the house longer than they'd like and will turn them into somebody sleepy and fat instead of somebody alert and lean. But that's not how it works. Both are fundamental: Breakfast and love will nourish you even when you're busy doing other things; when they're healthy, they'll make every day better.

And like love, breakfast is best when made at home.

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut, a feminist scholar who has written eight books, and a columnist for the Hartford Courant. *She can be reached through her www.ginabarreca.com.*

Make college free-market, not 'free'

By VICKI ALGER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The biggest problem with President Barack Obama's proposal to make two-year community college "as free as high school," which he has dubbed America's College Promise, is that the new "free" associate degrees will become as costly and meaningless as many high school diplomas.

For the record, American public elementary and secondary schools already spend more than $13,500 per pupil per year on average _ slightly more than two-year colleges spend.

That's hardly the kind of "free" any of us can afford, even if public secondary schools were getting results. Which they are, of course, but the wrong kind.

The national high school graduation rate may have reached an historic high of more than 80 percent, but the average college freshman reads at a middle-school level, according to the educational assessment firm Renaissance Learning. National Assessment of Educational Progress results for twelfth-grade public school students released last summer also show that just one-quarter score proficient or better in math, and slightly more than one-third (36 percent) are proficient in reading.

So the story is simple: U.S. public schools are awarding high school diplomas to millions of students who haven't mastered the basics _ a fact that even U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan admitted when he derided the "educational stagnation in our high schools" last year.

Not surprisingly, some 75 percent of freshmen entering public two-year colleges need remedial work in English, math, or both, according to the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. There's no good reason to believe that academic quality _ much less affordability _ will improve by expanding the federal government's reach into higher education, or taxpayers' wallets.

At last count our national debt was $18 trillion. Mounting evidence indicates that student debt, which now exceeds $1 trillion, is adding to the drag on our economy. Decades of government "financial aid" have done little to help and, according to any number of studies, have probably made matters worse, encouraging colleges and universities to increase tuition and fees. The last thing we should be doing is spending another $60 billion to $70 billion annually on public two-year colleges where barely 1 in 5 students earns a degree in three years.

What is "free" in the president's equation are the schools: they, like the high schools that supply them with students who are poorly equipped to do college-level work, would be free of responsibility.

What is needed to make higher education more affordable are better incentives for students to buckle down, study and get their degrees on time, not more high-priced, top-down government giveaways.

Instead of funneling hundreds of billions of dollars annually to public institutions that face no consequences for out-of-control price increases, what we should do is provide the money directly to students as performance grants.

To qualify for these grants, students would have to demonstrate financial need and complete their chosen degree programs as stipulated. Otherwise, their grants would convert into loans that must be repaid.

Schools, two and four-year alike, would have to compete for students and their associated grant funding, which would exert powerful pressure on the schools to control costs, keep program quality high and offer more generous institutional aid _ or risk losing students to other institutions.

Want to make higher education an engine for economic growth? Don't make it "free." Make it free market, as the Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton Friedman recommended decades ago.

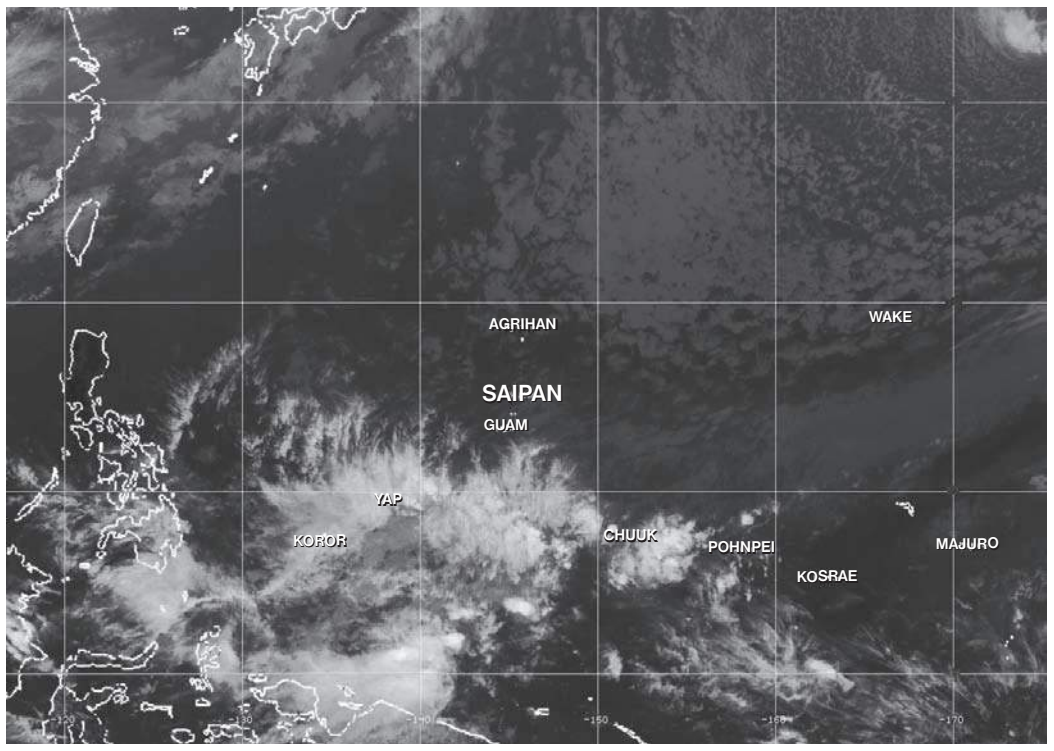
Vicki Alger is a research fellow at the Independent Institute, 100 Swan Way, Oakland, Calif. 94621, with a forthcoming book on the history of the U.S. Department of Education.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough curves eastward from 2N130E through a weak circulation southeast of Yap at 5N140E to end at EQ162E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms across Yap state are between 11N and 8N from 130E to 150E. Widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Palau and southwest of Chuuk are south of 8N from 130E to 148E and south of Kosrae near the equator south of 2N from 159E to 163E. A cold front extends southwestward from 17N180E to 13N170E then continues as a shear line passing between Chuuk and Pohnpei to end near 5N152E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are along and up to 300 miles northwest of this boundary except scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between Chuuk and Pohnpei are within 100 miles of 7N154E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲82	▼74
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼60
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲48	▼26
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲71	▼65
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲46	▼41
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼47
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼72
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼59
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼65
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲23	▼ 5
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼40
Paris	Showers	▲50	▼38
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲53	▼35
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼52
Salem	Sunny	▲58	▼33
San Francisco	Sunny	▲65	▼49
Seoul	Sunny	▲45	▼28
Tokyo	Showers	▲52	▼44
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲31	▼13

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:36 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
11:27 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
6:31 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:38 AM	6:24 PM
Wednesday	6:37 AM	6:24 PM
Thursday	6:37 AM	6:24 PM
Friday	6:36 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:36 AM	6:25 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:39 AM	11:37 PM
Wednesday	11:29 AM	
Thursday	12:19 PM	12:32 AM
Friday	1:10 PM	1:25 AM
Saturday	2:00 PM	2:16 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daiily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Business

Governors: No clear plan if health care subsidies fall

WASHINGTON (AP)—Millions of people could lose health insurance subsidies in the coming months if the Supreme Court sides with opponents of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul.

And one thing was clear this weekend as the nation's governors gathered in Washington: Many of the states that could be affected are not prepared for the potential fallout.

In rounds of interviews at the National Governors Association's winter meeting, several governors indicated they could do little about the estimated 8 million people who could drop coverage if they were to lose health insurance subsidies later this year—a scenario that legal experts suggest is a real possibility. While preliminary state-level discussions have begun in some cases, many governors charged that Congress should bear the burden of fixing any problems.

"That responsibility doesn't fall in the hands of the states or the governors, it falls in the hands of the leaders right here in Washington," said Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who is contemplating a run for the Republican presidential nomination in 2016. He's one of the many Republican leaders who resisted efforts to create a state-based health insurance exchange.

Indeed, while the Supreme Court deemed the health care overhaul constitutional more than two years ago, the Affordable Care Act still sits on shifting political sands.

The Supreme Court will hear arguments March 4 on whether the health care law allows the federal government to pay subsidies in states that declined to set up their own insurance markets, or exchanges. For many Americans, the subsidies make the insurance affordable. More than 30 states—largely those led by Republicans—declined to set up state-based systems and have exchanges run by the federal government instead.

"We declined to operate a state exchange along with a majority of other states," said Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, a Republican who is also weighing a 2016 White House run and supports the repeal of the health care law. "Right now we're just evaluating what our options are depending on what the Supreme Court decides."

Coverage losses would be concentrated largely in Republican-led states across the South and Midwest that have resisted the law, among them Florida, Maine, North Carolina, Michigan, Texas, Virginia and New Jersey.

Residents of states that are running their own markets, including California and New York, would continue to receive benefits.

While few governors offered specific remedies this weekend, some governors in unaffected states signaled a willingness to allow neighboring states to join their exchanges, although the governors interviewed were unclear if such partnerships were permitted under the new law.

"I'm very interested in the concept. If we can work together with Utah and the other neighboring states that could work out well," said Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval, a Republican whose state has its own exchange and won't be affected.

Most of his colleagues aren't as confident.

"Nobody is quite sure what's going to happen," said Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, a Democrat, who said leaders in his state believe they have until June 30 to put together contingency plans for an estimated 270,000 Virginians who may lose subsidies.

"We're having conversations," said New Hampshire's Democratic Gov. Maggie Hassan, whose state is among nine that have a hybrid state-federal partnership. She said around 30,000 New Hampshire residents currently receive health care subsidies, while another 34,000 on Medicaid, set to be moved into the exchange next year, could also be affected. "It's a significant issue," she said.

AP

Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval speaks with reporters following the opening session of the National Governors Winter Meeting in Washington, Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015.

Don't let deafness limit your work relationships

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics."

Q: I am the only deaf person in a large organization. Because I speak and lip-read fairly well, I initially went out of my way to communicate with my hearing colleagues. Unfortunately, this proved to be quite difficult.

Whenever I saw a group chatting, I would try to join in and participate. However, I had trouble following the discussion when people turned their heads or spoke very fast. This became so frustrating that I even stopped attending our team's birthday lunches.

We work in an open office, so people often converse without leaving their desks. Since I must be in front of someone to speak with them, I am also excluded from these interactions. Because my co-workers are too lazy to get up and include me, I miss out on many conversations.

To feel less lonely and isolated, I have become more involved with the deaf community. Having normal interactions in sign language has made me a much happier person, but I am still annoyed with my co-workers. Why do they refuse to meet me halfway?

A: People who have difficulty hearing, seeing or speaking can have a tough time in social groups. When conversations bounce around with no particular pattern, normal participation becomes very challenging. Since this won't be an issue in the deaf community, I'm glad you have developed friendships there.

At the same time, however, I hope you won't abandon all efforts to connect with your hearing co-workers. During one-on-one conversations, they should definitely "meet you halfway." But in a group, they may simply become distracted and forget to consider your particular needs.

Similarly, in an open office, people naturally chat with nearby colleagues. To speak with you directly, they should come to your desk, but they can't be expected to have all conversations there. Although these talkative folks might be somewhat thoughtless, they aren't deliberately excluding you.

To reduce your frustration, try relating to co-workers individually. Having a focused discussion with one person will be much more enjoyable than getting lost in a crowd. And please don't isolate yourself by skipping office celebrations, since your presence conveys that you are part of the team.

Finally, consider asking your boss or human resources manager to offer sign language classes at work. Even if only a few people sign up, this will automatically provide you with your own little "in-group".

Q: I was recently promoted to a senior position where I will be working with an experienced executive assistant. I have never had an assistant before, so how do I get my relationship with her off to a good start?

A: Since your assistant is familiar with her role, begin by learning how she has previously handled her responsibilities. If you are comfortable with her current way of working, then it's just a matter of settling in. But if your habits or preferences differ from those of your predecessor, you will need to clarify those expectations.

After that, schedule a few follow-up sessions to discuss how things are going and make any necessary changes. This will not only allow you to clear up areas of confusion but will also establish a valuable precedent for ongoing communication.

Some progress, but recession 'poster city' faces uphill road

WILMINGTON, Ohio (AP)—Folks in this little Ohio city are thankful for all the interest and help: the national TV coverage, the attention from politicians of all stripes, the visits by celebrities, the generous donations to feed families facing hunger for the first time.

Now they'd like to be known for something more than being dubbed "ground zero" for the Great Recession, when they took what the mayor calls "a gut shot" as their major employer decided in 2008 to pull out of town.

"We appreciated it- Jay Leno, Glenn Beck, Rachael Ray coming here—that was good stuff," said Mayor Richard Riley. "But then there was the other extreme—`I wish this wasn't happening to us; I wish that we could get over this because we don't want to be the poster child for the recession.' We were ... but who wants to be that?"

There are some positive signs these days in the town in a rural area some 60 miles southwest of the state capital of Columbus, and Ohio Gov. John Kasich will help spotlight them when he returns Feb. 24 to deliver his State of the State address here. Staggering unemployment rates that topped 19 percent at their worst five years ago have fallen, to below 6 percent at the end of 2014 for Clinton County, where Wilmington is the county seat. The city stopped keeping its running tally of new jobs in a downtown window after topping 1,000, but Riley said the total is around 2,000.

There are other numbers, and vignettes, that show the city is still on a long, uphill road to come back from the plunge it took when delivery service DHL Express, battling its own economic pressures, moved a cargo hub from Wilmington's sprawling air park. That cost more than 8,000 jobs in the region, affecting an estimated one in three households in the city of some 12,000.

"They can brag about the new jobs all they want," said resident Michael O'Machearley. "Living at `ground zero,' I can tell you the economy's not going that great."

After losing his air park driver job six years ago, O'Machearley focused on building up his custom knife business at home. He was interviewed by German, Italian and U.S. TV networks reporting on Wilmington's woes, so he got publicity for his business. But even though he's sold knives to buyers around the world, he figures his income is about half what it was before.

The number of private sector jobs in the county is some 30 percent below the pre-recession totals, with fewer in the workforce and more people working elsewhere; household incomes are down and poverty levels up. Your Father's Kitchen, the food pantry and cafeteria that TV cook Ray helped remodel and expand, still assists hundreds of people each week with hot meals and groceries.

"The real lesson is that it takes a while to recover from a disaster like that," University of Dayton economist Richard Stock said. "It doesn't get done overnight."

A few years before the recession, Wilmington showed up in national stories about the best small towns in America, with its picturesque downtown including book shops, cafes and knick-knack stores and its shaded Victorian-style houses. Unemployment was below statewide and national rates back then.

Wayne Wilkin worked at the air park as a mechanic; now he works at home selling honey from the bees he keeps.

"I didn't know how good I had it," said Wilkin, who also has a part-time grocery store job. His family, like O'Machearley's and others, has learned to live with less: rarely dining out, going without cable TV and the daily newspaper, getting health coverage through a Christian cooperative. "You get used to it; you go back to your roots and faith. You find out what you can do."

"This isn't a case of people sitting around in Clinton County and going `poor me,'" Stock said.

Nation

‘American Sniper’ suspect’s ex-comrades mourn man they knew

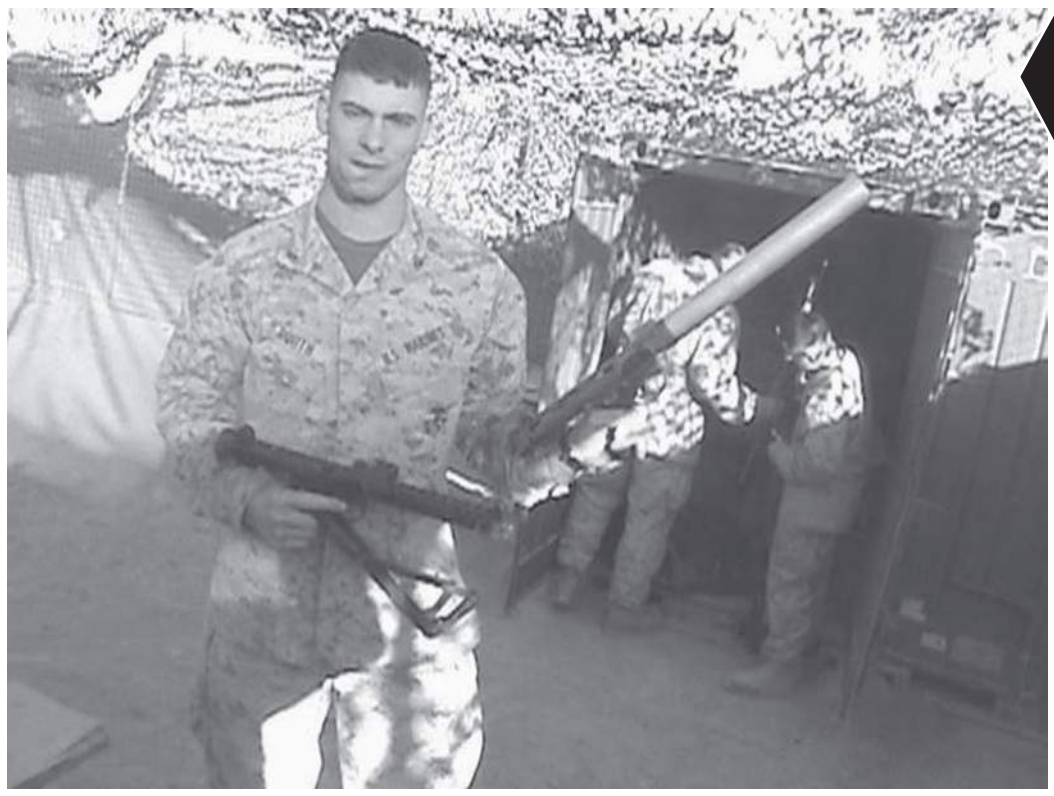
STEPHENVILLE, Texas (AP)—For those who served with Eddie Ray Routh in the Iraqi desert, the man on trial for gunning down the famed “American Sniper” Chris Kyle and a friend is not the Marine they had come to know.

“The Routh I knew looked up to people who did that kind of job,” said former Cpl. Ryker Pawloski. “He respected war fighters like you wouldn’t believe.”

“It just doesn’t fathom,” agreed Corey Smalley, who shared a metal trailer with Routh at Camp Fallujah. “He wasn’t the picture-perfect Marine, even though that’s what he wanted to be. And the people he looked up to the most were people like Chris Kyle. He always wanted to be those people—be the people that Marines from now on will always be talking about.”

Routh achieved that—but not the way he’d hoped.

The 27-year-old stands charged with capital murder in the Feb. 2, 2013, slayings of the former Navy SEAL and his friend, Chad Littlefield. Kyle, who by his own count made more than 300 kills, volunteered with veterans facing mental health problems. Kyle and Littlefield took Routh to a shooting range after his mother asked Kyle to help her son cope with post-traumatic stress disorder and other personal demons.



AP
In this 2008 photo provided by Corey Smalley, Eddie Ray Routh poses at Camp Fallujah in Iraq.

Routh’s attorney, Tim Moore, read a text message during the trial in which Kyle described Routh as “straight-up nuts.” Family members have testified that Routh came back from his military service a changed man. He was hospitalized multiple times for mental health issues and had trouble keeping a job.

“I noticed that he kind of lost his desire for life,” his uncle, James Watson testified.

Moore said that when Routh killed Kyle and Littlefield “he was in the grip of a psychosis” so severe he didn’t know it was wrong and thought “it was either him or them.”

Erath County District Attorney Alan Nash described Routh as “a troubled young man,” but said mental illnesses “don’t deprive people from being good citizens, to know right from wrong.”

After the killings, Routh’s parents described a young man haunted by what he’d seen in Iraq and earthquake-ravaged Haiti, and who sought relief at the bottom of a bottle. Many combat veterans say Routh exaggerated his experiences, and scoff at the notion that he saw anything that would cause PTSD.

Men who served with “Routhy” in Combat Logistics Battalion 8 at Camp Fallujah in 2007-2008 concede he had a drinking problem, even before Iraq. And they don’t recall their unit suffering anything overly traumatic.

But they say something must have happened to turn Routh from a gung-ho Marine into an alleged double killer.

Shortly after the unit reached Fallujah, Routh was ordered to Balad Air Base, where he helped guard Iraqi prisoners. Although Routh had no love for the captured fighters, Smalley said he was disturbed at how they were treated.

He told Smalley some guards would use the leashed prisoners’ heads to push open the metal cell doors. “And he just didn’t feel like that was called for,” Smalley told the AP.

Among Routh’s most vocal doubters is the Warfighter Foundation, a nonprofit group whose mission is “to empower combat veterans and their families through physical, mental, and emotional rehabilitation.”

Anecdotes and photos posted online by the group portray Routh as short-tempered and violent. Pawloski spoke with the group—on whose site Kyle’s brother is an administrator—and supplied pictures, but said the information was taken out of context.

Pawloski said Routh did once body-slam him to a metal floor, but also apologized afterward and “followed me around a little, to make sure I was OK.”

Fuel-hauling trains could derail at 10 times a year

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)—The federal government predicts that trains hauling crude oil or ethanol will derail an average of 10 times a year over the next two decades, causing more than $4 billion in damage and possibly killing hundreds of people if an accident happens in a densely populated part of the U.S.

The projection comes from a previously unreported analysis by the Department of Transportation that reviewed the risks of moving vast quantities of both fuels across the nation and through major cities. The study completed last July took on new relevance this week after a train loaded with crude derailed in West Virginia, sparked a spectacular fire and forced the evacuation of hundreds of families.

Monday’s accident was the latest in a spate of fiery derailments, and senior federal officials said it drives home the need for stronger tank cars, more effective braking systems and other safety improvements.

“This underscores why we need to move as quickly as possible getting these regulations in place,” said Tim Butters, acting administrator for the Transportation Department’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

The volume of flammable liquids transported by rail has risen dramatically over the last decade, driven mostly by the oil shale boom in North Dakota and Montana. This year, rails are expected to move nearly 900,000 car loads of oil and ethanol in tankers. Each can hold 30,000 gallons of fuel.

Based on past accident trends, anticipated shipping volumes and known ethanol and crude rail routes, the analysis predicted about 15 derailments in 2015, declining to about five a year by 2034.

Tsarnaev’s lawyer has saved notorious clients from death

BOSTON (AP)—With her arm around the young man’s back, she gives him a gentle pat and leans in to whisper something to him. Judy Clarke could be his mother, with this simple, comforting gesture, but she is not.

She is a defense lawyer and he is accused of bombing the Boston Marathon.

Clarke has defended those accused of horrific and infamous crimes, including Unabomber Ted Kaczynski, Atlanta Olympics bomber Eric Rudolph and Arizona shooter Jared Lee Loughner, who killed six people and injured 13 others, including U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, in 2011. She saved all of them from the death penalty and hopes to do the same for Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, the man accused in the 2013 marathon bombing that killed three people and injured more than 260 others.

In what has become a familiar refrain in Clarke’s career, she faces tough odds. Tsarnaev, 21, faces a total of 30 charges in the bombings and the killing days later of an MIT police officer; 17 of the charges carry the possibility of the death penalty.

Lawyers who have worked with her say the same gentle quality she has shown with Tsarnaev has helped her connect with her other clients and, in turn, helped save their lives.

“During a time when the world was focused on my brother as a monster, she was able to see him as a human being and provide him with that kind of human contact and emotional support at a time when he had very little sympathy from anyone,” said David Kaczynski, who made the difficult decision to turn in his brother after he suspected him in a series of bombings that killed three people and injured 23 others between 1978 and 1995.

“She really sees each human being as a human being and defines them not in terms of what they may have done or how sick they may be or how fanatical they may be, but through a kind of human core,” David Kaczynski said.

Huge plant that waited 80 years to flower has month to live

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP)—A towering American agave plant that waited 80 years to flower and produce seeds is dying after fulfilling its purpose and will be taken down next month, said its caretaker at the University of Michigan’s botanical gardens.

The unusually old specimen has called Ann Arbor home since 1934. It grew to 28 feet tall after a rapid growth spurt last spring that preceded its flowering, which ended last year. Once it stopped flowering, the agave went into rapid decline, which is normal for the species, said Mike Palmer, horticulture manager at the school’s Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

“There’s really no value to leaving it up anymore, because it’s going downhill so quickly,” he said.

The agave produced “tons” of seeds, including one pod that contained 86 of them, Palmer said. Students have been picking viable seeds that will be distributed to botanical gardens throughout the U.S. Some seedlings will be sold in the university’s garden store.

Palmer said he hasn’t decided what to do with the fibrous stalk, which will be brought down with a saw, but that he gave a sample of it to a music professor who is testing to determine whether a musical instrument could be made from it.

The plant is a variegated form of the American agave, which is native to Mexico and the American Southwest. Variegated plants often have some other color than green in their leaves. The variegated pattern is usually striped but sometimes can be blotched or muted throughout the leaf. In nature, without man cultivating them, variegated plants don’t usually survive to reproduce successfully.

AP
In a Feb. 17, 2015 photo, a 20-plus-foot-tall plant that has lived an unusually long 80 years at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Mich., is done flowering for the one and only time in its life and will be chopped down next month.

“We can’t know for sure,” Palmer said, but the agave most likely flowers once and dies because it uses so many resources to bloom in a harsh and extreme environment.

Although it is known as the century plant, the American agave typically lives 10 to 30 years.

“We don’t know why it took ours so long to bloom,” Palmer said.

In addition to the Michigan specimen’s unusually long life, it surprised Palmer by not producing “pups,” or genetic clones, which officials had wanted to use to propagate the species at the conservatory.

Asia

Death toll rises to at least 68 in Bangladesh ferry disaster

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—The death toll from a weekend ferry disaster in central Bangladesh rose to 68 as divers searched for bodies Monday in the latest mishap in the South Asian nation.

Up to 140 passengers were thought to be on the river ferry when it capsized Sunday afternoon after being hit by a cargo vessel.

The accident happened on the Padma River about 40 kilometers (25 miles) northwest of Dhaka, the capital. Ferry accidents are common in Bangladesh, which is crisscrossed by more than 130 rivers.

The ferry, the M.L. Mosta, was 6 meters (20 feet) under water, said Inspector Zihad Mia, who is overseeing the rescue operation.

On Monday, a salvage ship was engaged to recover the ferry, Mia said.

Rescuers recovered 48 bodies on Sunday, and by Monday morning another 20 bodies had been found, according to a police control room at the scene.

Mia said officials had yet to determine how many passengers were missing. Ferries in Bangladesh usually do not maintain formal passenger lists.

"We don't have a clear picture about how many were exactly on the ferry when it sank," Mia said. "But I think many have survived."

Jewel Mia, an official from the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, told reporters at the scene that up to 140 people were on board when the ferry sank.

By Monday morning, police had handed over 50 bodies to their families, said local police chief Mohammaed Rakibuzzman. At least eight were children, he said.

A passenger who survived said many people were trapped inside the ferry when it sank. "The passengers who were on the deck survived, but many who were inside were trapped," Hafizur Rahman Sheikh was quoted as saying by the Prothom Alo newspaper.

Sheikh said the cargo vessel hit the middle of the ferry.

A Ministry of Shipping statement said an investigation had been ordered.

The Padma is one of the largest rivers in Bangladesh, where overcrowding and poor safety standards are often blamed for ferry disasters.

Last August, a ferry with a capacity of 85 passengers was found to be carrying more than 200 when it capsized on the Padma near Dhaka, leaving more than 100 people dead or missing. The ferry's owner was arrested after weeks in hiding on charges of culpable homicide, unauthorized operation and overloading.

At least five people die earlier this month when a ferry sank in southern Bangladesh.

AP

Bangladeshi rescue workers carry the dead body of one of the victims after a river ferry carrying unto 140 passengers capsized Sunday after being hit by a cargo vessel, in Manikganj district, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) northwest of Dhaka, Bangladesh, Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015. Dozens have been killed.

US defense secretary calls Afghan army 'a powerful force'

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter on Sunday called Afghanistan's army "a powerful force in their own right" but declined to say whether he thinks the U.S. can scale back military training and advising this year as planned.

Carter wrapped up two days in the war zone by consulting with U.S. and Afghan commanders at Kandahar air field, an important hub in the network of U.S. advisory posts that are due to close before year's end.

In a question-and-answer session with reporters at this base in southern Afghanistan, Carter declined to say whether his visit had convinced him that the Kandahar operation should stay open longer.

The advisory work here will wind up this summer unless President Barack Obama alters his plan for ending the U.S. military presence.

"I'm not prepared to share conclusions except with him, when I reach them," Carter said. He said he was impressed by progress in professionalizing the Afghan army and police.

"The Afghan security forces have become a powerful force in their own right, and good partners in their own way," he said.

Carter, who started as Pentagon chief just last week, is preparing recommendations to Obama about the future of the American military presence in Afghanistan. On Saturday, Carter met with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and said afterward that Obama is considering whether to slow the pace of U.S. troop withdrawals this year and next.

The U.S. now has about 10,000 troops in Afghanistan, including about 2,000 training and advising in Kandahar.

On Monday, Carter was convening a meeting in Kuwait of U.S. military commanders, intelligence officials and diplomats for what his aides billed as a free-wheeling discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the Obama administration's strategy for countering the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

Carter intends to examine the intellectual underpinnings of the strategy against IS, including the bombing campaigns and their connection to broader political and regional goals, a senior defense official said.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss Carter's internal planning.

Rear Adm. John Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary, said among those expected to attend the conference are U.S. ambassadors from Jordan and elsewhere in the Mideast, the top U.S. commanders from Europe, Africa and the Mideast and special operations force leaders.

U.S. commanders are known to prefer to keep the Kandahar operation open at least through the peak fighting season this summer. Current plans call for it to wind down before summer's end in order to have the entire U.S. presence at Kandahar out by December.

Earlier, Carter addressed a gathering of about 100 U.S. soldiers at Kandahar and thanked them for their work with the Afghan army. He said their advisory effort "is now becoming the heart of" the U.S. military mission in Afghanistan, which also includes hunting down remnants of al-Qaida.

Carter made clear that whatever course of action he recommends to Obama, it will be based on the goal of preserving the security gains that have been achieved during 13 years of costly combat.

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH court enters not-guilty plea for US Marine

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine court has entered a not-guilty plea for a U.S. Marine charged with the murder of a Filipino transgender in a case that has tested Manila's longtime military alliance with Washington. Marine Pfc. Joseph Scott Pemberton refused to enter a plea Monday to the murder charge in a court proceeding in Olongapo city northwest of Manila, according to Justice Secretary Leila de Lima. Journalists were barred from the arraignment. Pemberton was charged in the October killing of Jennifer Laude, whose former name was Jeffrey and who had apparently been strangled and drowned in a toilet bowl after the U.S. Marine discovered that she was a transgender woman. They had checked into a motel after meeting in a disco bar.

N. Korea bars tourists from popular race over Ebola concerns

TOKYO (AP)—North Korean authorities are barring foreigners from this year's Pyongyang marathon, a popular tourist event, amid ongoing Ebola travel restrictions, the head of a travel agency that specializes in the country said Monday. Nick Bonner, cofounder of Beijing-based Koryo Tours, said more than 400 foreign runners had signed up with his agency alone for the event, which is to be held April 12. He said he was informed by officials on Monday that the race would be open only to local runners. Though no cases of Ebola have been reported anywhere near North Korea, the country shut its borders to foreign tourists in October with strict regulations to keep the virus out. North Korean media have suggested Ebola was created by the U.S. military as a biological weapon.

Head of UN climate panel skips meeting amid harassment case

NEW DELHI (AP)—The Indian leader of the U.N.'s expert panel on climate change has pulled out of a key meeting in Nairobi while pledging to cooperate with New Delhi police investigating allegations of sexual harassment.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said its chairman, R.K. Pachauri, would skip next week's plenary session in the Kenyan capital "because of issues demanding his attention in India."

While the organization refused to elaborate, Pachauri is being investigated after a 29-year-old woman accused him of sexually harassing her while they worked together at the New Delhi lobbying and research organization he heads, The Energy Resources Institute.

The 75-year-old Pachauri said he was "committed to provide all assistance and cooperation to the authorities in their ongoing investigations," according to a statement issued Saturday night.

News reports said New Delhi police also plan to question a second woman who made public allegations against Pachauri on Saturday but provided no evidence and filed no police complaint.

Delhi police spokesman Rajan Bhagat had no comment Sunday, beyond saying "the investigation is in progress."

The case erupted over the past week after a court lifted a media gag order Thursday and allowed Pachauri to apply for anticipatory bail. Newspapers have since run full-page stories detailing alleged text-message exchanges between the IPCC chief and the woman.

In the past couple of years, India has seen a wave of public anger and protest over this socially conservative nation's chronic problem with sexual harassment and violence against women. While new laws have increased prison terms for rape and made stalking, voyeurism and sexual harassment a crime, new reports of abuse are featured by newspapers almost every day.

The IPCC said Saturday that one of its vice-chairs would lead the Nairobi meeting, which begins Tuesday. Pachauri has chaired the climate panel since 2002, accepting the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize on its behalf. He has said he will not run for a third term after October.

World

Somalia extremists urge attacks on US shopping malls

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—A video purported to be by Somalia's al-Qaida-linked rebel group al-Shabab urged Muslims to attack shopping malls in the U.S., Canada, Britain and other Western countries.

U.S. authorities said there was "no credible" evidence suggesting a U.S. mall attack was in the works.

The threat by the al-Qaida affiliate came in the final minutes of a more than hourlong video released Saturday in which the extremists also warned Kenya of more attacks like the September 2013 assault on the Westgate Mall in Nairobi in which 67 people were killed.

The masked narrator concluded by calling on Muslims to attack shopping malls, specifically naming the Mall of America in the Minneapolis suburb of Bloomington, as well as the West Edmonton Mall in Canada and the Westfield mall in Stratford, England. The authenticity of the video could not be immediately verified by The Associated Press.

The FBI and Department of Homeland Security provided local law enforcement agencies and private sector partners with "relevant information regarding the recent al-Shabab propaganda video," DHS press secretary Marsha Catron said in a statement.

"However, we are not aware of any specific, credible plot against the Mall of America or any other domestic commercial shopping center," Catron said.

AP

A Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015 photo shows the exterior of the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn. A video released late Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015, purported to be by Somalia's al-Qaida-linked rebels, urges Muslims to attack shopping malls in North America, Britain and other Western countries, specifically mentioning the Mall of America in Minnesota, the West Edmonton Mall in Canada, and the Westfield Mall in Stratford, England.

The Bloomington Police Department said additional security measures had been put in place at the Mall of America, one of the largest malls in the nation.

Speaking earlier on morning talk shows in the U.S., Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson called the video "the new phase" of the global terrorist threat and warned the public to be vigilant.

"These groups are relying more and more on independent actors to become inspired, drawn to the cause and they'll attack on their own," Johnson said, speaking on CNN's "State of the Union."

"I am very concerned about serious potential threats of independent actors here in the United States. We've seen this now in Europe, we've seen this in Canada."

Asked about the specific threat against the Mall of America, Johnson said: "Any time a terrorist organization calls for an attack on a specific place we've got to take that seriously. What we're telling the public is you've got to be vigilant. ... There will be enhanced security there that will be apparent, but public vigilance, public awareness and public caution in situations like this is particularly important."

In the slickly produced video posted online, a masked man, his face wrapped in a black-and-white kaffiyeh-type scarf and wearing a camouflage jacket, declared: "Westgate was just the beginning." The video included footage from major news organizations showing the assault on the mall and said it was in reprisal for alleged abuses by Kenyan troops against Muslims in Somalia.

"What if such an attack were to occur in the Mall of America in Minnesota? Or the West Edmonton Mall in Canada? Or in London's Oxford Street?" said the man, who spoke with a British accent and appeared to be of Somali origin.

Zionism debate at heart of bitter Israeli vote

JERUSALEM (AP)—What is Zionism? The ideological question, rooted in the 19th century, has gained surprising urgency in an Israeli election campaign that seems more open than had been expected.

Seeking to take votes from the nationalistic right of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the relatively liberal opposition has rebranded itself as the Zionist Union—sparking a debate about a concept that some considered resolved when the Jewish state was declared and widely recognized in 1948.

Since adopting the name in early December, Isaac Herzog's Labor Party—bolstered by a smaller grouping led by former opposition leader Tsipi Livni—has surged in the polls. They are now running neck-and-neck in the polls with Netanyahu's Likud.

The debate over who best reflects the ideals of Zionism—and who can most credibly lay claim to its successes—has lent an oddly philosophical hue to a campaign that had been dominated by more prosaic issues such as budget scandals in the management of the prime minister's residence. Along the way, the stage appears to have been set for a surprisingly climactic vote on March 17.

On the left, politicians speak of true Zionism as requiring the establishment of peace and equality in the land, including by making peace with the Palestinians and giving up land if needed.

Netanyahu has mocked his rivals as "the anti-Zionist Union." Backers of his Likud tend to equate the term with a strong Israel standing up to its enemies, and with the West Bank settler movement specifically. Ideological settlers view themselves as true Zionists, called upon to reclaim the Holy Land in its entirety almost regardless of the consequences.

Danny Danon, a senior Likud parliamentarian, argued that the opposition was weakening Israel with excessive sympathy for the Palestinians, alleging that some on the left have praised refusal to serve in the army or support the Arab view that the founding of the country was a catastrophe.

"Some in that camp are trying to change the nature of Israel and (use) the name Zionist Union to hide some of the comments made by their members," Danon said.

Yemen's Hadi says still legitimate president

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—The embattled Yemeni leader who resigned the presidency last month and has fled the rebel-controlled capital said on Sunday that he is still the country's legitimate president and is ruling from the south.

The surprise move to withdraw his resignation and challenge the Shiite rebels known as Houthis raised the stakes in Yemen's political deadlock, fanning fears that the strategically located country could now face a regional split.

"Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi exercises his functions as president of the republic in Aden with legitimacy not subject to questioning," his office said in a statement after he met with governors from all six southern provinces and received their backing.

The meetings were in the southern city of Aden, where Hadi arrived on Saturday and said that all actions taken since the rebels stormed the capital Sanaa last September were illegitimate. Aside from the southern provinces, three northern ones—Marib, Jawf and the country's largest in terms of population, Taiz—also lent him their support in statements.

Hadi's aides have said that since he made his resignation under house arrest, with rebels controlling the capital and without the legally required ratification by parliament, it was invalid. The rebels had first prevented the parliament from meeting and then dissolved it earlier this month.

On Sunday the Socialist, Leftist, Nasserist, Salafi and Islamist Islah parties threw their weight behind Hadi's cause, issuing statements endorsing his return to power. Tens of thousands also marched in anti-Houthi protests and in support of Hadi in the cities of Taiz, Ibb and Houdeida.

The largest party in Yemen however, the General People's Congress of Hadi's predecessor Ali Abdullah Saleh, rejected Hadi's move to reclaim office.

Hadi has called on the Houthis to leave the capital and for the military and security forces to rally to his side.

Yemen's Gulf Arab neighbors have warned that if the world fails to act against the rebels, they will take whatever actions deemed necessary to maintain regional security and stability.

Blast hits march in eastern Ukraine, killing 2

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—A bomb blast killed two at a march in east Ukraine on Sunday on the first anniversary of the ouster of the country's Russia-friendly president, a gruesome counterpoint to the hopes spawned by a cease-fire agreement more than a week ago.

An exchange of prisoners this weekend and acknowledgment by both sides of a commitment to pull back heavy weapons are promising signs that peace may yet prevail, although sporadic exchanges of hostilities between government and separatist forces have yet to subside entirely.

Ukraine's Interior Ministry said the blast at a march in the eastern city of Kharkiv to mark the ouster of President Viktor Yanukovych was due to an "unknown explosive device" and was considered a terrorist act. A police officer was one of the dead and about a dozen people were injured, the ministry said.

A spokesman for the national security service, Markian Lubkivskiy, said four suspects had arrested for the explosion and for planning other attacks. He said in a statement on his Facebook account that the suspects were detained while carrying a portable rocket launcher in their automobile, and appeared to acting under instructions from Russia.

"We can clearly see that the launcher was received from the (Russian city of) Belgorod. Instructions were received from the Russian Federation," he said in broadcast remarks.

Lubkivskiy did not specify if he was accusing private individuals in Russia or the government in Moscow, but the tenor of his claims illustrates the degree of distrust between Russia and Ukraine.

Focus

Anti-vaccine mothers discuss their thinking amid backlash

By GOSIA WOZNIACKA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAKE OSWEGO, Ore. (AP)—One is a businesswoman and an MBA graduate. Another is a corporate vice president. The third is a registered nurse.

These three mothers—all of them educated, middle-class professionals—are among the vaccine skeptics who have been widely ridiculed since more than 100 people fell ill in a measles outbreak traced to Disneyland. Critics question their intelligence, their parenting, even their sanity. Some have been called criminals for foregoing shots for their children that are overwhelmingly shown to be safe and effective.

"Contrary to the common sentiment, we are not anti-science," said Michelle Moore, a businesswoman who lives in the affluent Portland suburb of Lake Oswego with her 2 1/2-year-old twin girls. "I'm not opposed to medicine, and I think vaccines have a place. We think it's a medical choice, and it should be researched carefully."

The backlash, much of it from people who fear unvaccinated children could infect their own kids, has been so severe that dozens of anti-vaccine parents contacted by The Associated Press were afraid to speak out. But a handful of mothers agreed to discuss their thinking.

Moore, an MBA graduate who runs an agriculture-related business, traces her feelings back to the time she took Lariam, a supposedly safe anti-malaria medication. Instead, she said, the drug saddled her with multiple health complications. She questions whether the government knew about the risks at the time. Health officials now acknowledge Lariam can cause severe side effects, some of which can be permanent.

That experience broke Moore's trust in the medical establishment and launched her on years of research into how vaccines can affect people's health. When she got pregnant, Moore and her husband delayed immunization for Sierra and Savannah.

"It was not an easy decision," she said. "The thought of something happening to them because we chose not to vaccinate is terrifying. But I have so many questions, and I do think it's the right decision for our family."

Nancy Babcock of Spokane, Washington, says people who share her opinions "are being vilified and ostracized." Babcock, a vice president at a bank, told her daughter about her doubts. Then her daughter and her husband looked into the issue, and they decided not to immunize their two children.

"In a community with many young people, those who don't vaccinate are feeling a lot of pressure," she said.

Nationwide, parents who seek an exemption from vaccine requirements are still in a tiny minority. The median total exemption rate for kindergartners during the 2013-14 school year was just 1.8 percent, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But some individual schools or communities have higher exemption rates, at times approaching 60 percent or more.

The CDC says years of testing are required before a vaccine is approved, and the shots are continually monitored for safety and effectiveness.

Anti-vaccination parents include a mix of views—from religious communities to families practicing alternative medicine and libertarians who shun government interference.

But many are Americans with college degrees living in liberal communities such as Santa Monica or Marin County in California and Portland, said Gary Freed, a professor of pediatrics at the University of Michigan.

Most hesitant parents do not avoid all vaccinations. They typically under-vaccinate, either delaying the shots until their child is older or refusing certain vaccines while continuing with others, Freed said.

> *It was not an easy decision. The thought of something happening to them because we chose not to vaccinate is terrifying. But I have so many questions, and I do think it's the right decision for our family.*

The parents who spoke to AP recounted spending hundreds of hours reviewing medical studies, books and news stories and networking on social media. They cited cases of children who were supposedly hurt by vaccines and the existence of a government-run vaccine injury-compensation program. And they worried about the oversight of pharmaceutical companies that reap profits from vaccines and are shielded from liability when a vaccine causes harm.

Moore said she read a 1998 study published in The Lancet journal by Dr. Andrew Wakefield, who raised the possibility of a link between the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine, bowel disease and autism. She said she knows the study was later discredited and retracted. She believes the research was inconclusive.

Moore concedes that the vast majority of studies show vaccines are safe, but she says some research points to inconsistencies, unknowns or negative effects that deserve further investigation.

And while autism is still a concern, Moore and others also worry about how exposure to chemicals, bad nutrition and stress can affect genes and health. They say large doses of synthetic additives found in vaccines, including aluminum and mercury, can harm the immune and digestive systems and brain.

They're believers in living naturally and eating organic food who also question the safety of genetically modified organisms, pesticides and other common substances such as flame retardants and plastics.

"There are so many environmental toxins, but anything in my children's world that I can influence I do," Moore said.

The CDC has phased out a mercury-containing preservative in vaccines as a precautionary measure, and the agency says vaccines containing aluminum pose extremely low risk to infants. Federal officials also say GMOs in foods are safe, as are pesticides if used according to labels.

These parents say they should be able to decide whether their child undergoes a medical procedure—a decision, they say, that goes to the core of what it means to have freedom of choice.

"I have the right to decide what to put into my child's body," said Heather Dillard, a mom in Springfield, Missouri, who is also a registered nurse. "Nobody has the right to put toxic chemicals into my son's bloodstream. That's taking my rights away, and it's very scary to me."

Dillard said she decided against vaccinating because her first child was born a preemie and has autism. Dillard does not believe vaccines caused the autism, but the disease led her to do a lot of research about health. She says she now chooses to build her son's immunity naturally, through diet, while avoiding shots or other medication.

Dillard and others say they are not worried about measles because their children have strong immune systems. They cite statistics: Out of the 1,000-plus measles cases in the past decade, there was not a single death.

"What I'm more nervous about is the hysteria that would result," if her children were to get ill, Moore said.

Moore said she does worry about affecting children who are immune-compromised and cannot be vaccinated. Before visiting friends with babies or young children, she said, she always informs them her twins are not vaccinated "so they have the power to make a choice." She also keeps the girls home at any sign of sickness.

Researchers say berating parents who oppose vaccines will not persuade anyone and only puts people on the defensive. Educational messages from health officials may also make little difference and could, in fact, be counterproductive, said Brendan Nyhan, assistant professor of government at Dartmouth College.

A study conducted by Nyhan and his colleagues last year showed that when parents were presented with evidence that vaccines do not cause autism or that measles cause great harm, some ended up feeling even more ambivalent.

"We tend to be skeptical toward information that contradicts our existing views," Nyhan said.

If Oregon were to take away the right to a vaccine exemption, Moore said, she would likely home-school her twins. She's keeping an open mind about vaccinating as her children get older, but hopes more studies on the long-term effects of vaccines can help dispel her doubts.

"I worry about living in a society that's progressively more intolerant toward any dissent," Moore said. "All scientific advances have come from questioning the status quo."

Overdrive

2015 Chevrolet Trax. MCT

2015 Chevrolet Trax is a funky, fun, affordable crossover

By JEAN JENNINGS
JEANKNOWSCARS.COM

NUTS & BOLTS

- Price Range: $20,995—$25,905 (prices include destination charge)
- EPA Fuel Economy: 26/34 mpg (front-wheel-drive model); 24 mpg city/31 mpg highway (all-wheel-drive model)
- Engine: Turbocharged 1.4-liter four-cylinder, 138 horsepower
- Fun-O-Meter: 5

When you head out to the dealership to test drive new cars, it's critical to drive only the level of car you can afford. Take the 2015 Chevrolet Trax, for instance. My tendency would be to go straight for the awesome Orange Rock Metallic Trax LTZ on the lot without noticing that it was the highest of the three trim levels and, at $26,530, almost five grand more than the base Trax LS ($21,870).

I would then find out that all the coolest features included in the LTZ model—Bose audio, power seats, remote start (a must-have), rear park assist, that flamboyantly awesome orange paint, and cruise control—are not even available as options on the base car. And then I would have to steel myself and pay the extra dollars. Because I at least need cruise control.

I found this out during my three-day test drive.

If you're fond of slamming on the accelerator when you want to giddy-up (as I clearly am), be ready for the tortured roar of the 1.4-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine followed by a slow trot as acceleration climbs, until the turbo kicks in and things smooth out. With only 138 horsepower on tap, the Ecotec four-cylinder engine would prefer you feed in your request for power with a lighter foot, thank you. It will climb well past the speed limit, but each time you sneeze—unless you set the cruise control—you'll find yourself going five miles an hour slower.

Did I mention you can't get cruise control on the Trax LS? Right. In fact, its minuscule options list offers not much beyond a handful of cargo area upgrades. I would get the heavy-duty cargo tray ($110). A notable exception is all-wheel drive, a $1,500 option on any of the three models and well worth every dollar.

Chevy clearly wants you to step up to the LS or LTZ. Do that, and the glittering array of standard luxuries and desirable options will be revealed (http://www.chevrolet.com/trax-small-suv.html).

Buzzing down the interstate, the Trax feels much less prone to a crosswind than you might imagine of a vehicle that is basically square, though it undoubtedly prefers being your city car. That useful square also delivers less fuel economy (24 mpg city/31 mpg highway for the all-wheel-drive model; the standard front-wheel-drive model gets 26/34 mpg) than you might expect these days. But it offsets that disappointment with a sterling 2015 five-star overall safety rating from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (a.k.a. the Government). The Trax also received a coveted 2015 Top Safety Pick rating from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

I actually like its funky shape and exceptionally well-screwed-together interior.

Even in cloth trim, the Trax's fit and finish are impeccable. Bezels surrounding air vents, cubbies and the six-speed automatic shift lever (manual function button is on the shift knob) are plastic with galvano chrome, chrome or liquid platinum finish. They look for all the world like metal, and are perfectly fitted in place. The instrument cluster is a clean, easy-to-read yet cheerful array of bold colors, and the MyLink touchscreen works well if you take those gloves off, sir. The front passenger's seat on all Trax models folds flat, allowing the already useful cargo area to swallow up longer items.

There is one major league feature that even the smallest and most Spartan of Chevrolets delivers on a silver platter: an ATT 4G LTE wireless hot spot that will handle seven Bluetooth devices when the car is on.

I actually like that even better than cruise control.

In Celebration of Her New Life

†Rufina Pagtakhan Deleon Guerrero

Born: August 19, 1944 Died: February 18, 2015

In Her New Life, She Now Joins Her:
Parents: **†Marcelo A. Pagtakhan and †Segunda SJ. Advento Pagtakhan**
Parents In-Law: **†Guillermo Cabrera Deleon Guerrero and †Juana Aguero Deleon Guerrero**

Her Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts Of Her:
Husband: Roman "Kobe" Aguero Deleon Guerrero
Children and Grandchildren:
Deborah DLG. Taitano [Joseph O. Taitano] (Dylan, Draven, Dominic)
Lynette DLG. and Kevin Castro (Kasey, Kaya)
Lavina DLG. and Jeffrey DelaCruz (Jasmine, Jayda, Jackie, Jared)
Alma DLG. and Patrick Sablan (Bryce, Madison, Colin)
Evangeline Deleon Guerrero and Steven Bautista (Cody Garcia, Kara Bautista)

Brothers, Sisters, and In-Laws:
Adelaida P. and †Fidencio Polidario
Rustico A and †Wilma Pagtakhan
Mario A. and †Dolly Pagtakhan
Donato A. and Sandra Pagtakhan
Emma P. and †Augusto Dames
Lina P. and Tito Yancha
Pedro A. and Elizabeth Pagtakhan
Lito A. and Yolanda Pagtakhan
Leila P. and Rogelio Consignado
Andreo A. and Beth Pagtakhan
Cecilia P. and Bernardo Puserio

Brothers In-Law and Sisters In-Law:
†Paqual A. Deleon Guerrero
†Daniel and †Rosario Dlg. Villagomez
†Vicente A. and Nita Deleon Guerrero
†Antonio T. and †Remedio Dlg. Villagomez
Larry A. and †Frances S. Deleon Guerrero
Jesus A. and Victoria T. Deleon Guerrero
Angelina A. Deleon Guerrero
Ron and Mariana A. Hanson
†John and Ramona Dlg. Pangelinan
†Joe A. and Bang'on Deleon Guerrero
†Takeo and Lourdes Dlg. Nakazato
Diego Deleon Guerrero and Bernadita Urumelog

She will be greatly missed by numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions are being celebrated for the repose of her soul at St. Jude Thaddeus Church in Koblerville at 6:00p.m. followed by Holy Rosary at 7:00pm.

Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, February 26, 2015. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel 7:30am to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Responso Service will be at 8:00am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:15am.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30am at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral. Interment Services will take place at Sanctuario PAX Memorial Gardens where she will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers,

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Maraming Salamat, Thank You

Roman "Kobe" A. Deleon Guerrero
Children, Grandchildren and Family

Life & Style

‘Birdman’ takes flight at an Oscars punctuated by politics

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The long take of “Birdman” has stretched all the way to the Academy Awards, where the jazzy, surreal comedy about an actor fleeing his superhero past took Hollywood’s top honor in a ceremony punctuated by passionate pleas for equality.

On a stormy night in Hollywood, the 87th annual Academy Awards—which came in humbled by backlash to its all-white acting nominees—bristled with politics and heartfelt speeches about women’s rights, immigration, suicide prevention, governmental surveillance and race.

In a battle of B-movies for best picture, the Oscars awarded “Birdman” best picture, opting for a movie that epitomizes Hollywood—showy, ego-mad, desperate for artistic credibility—over one (“Boyhood”) that prized naturalism and patience. “Birdman (or The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)” also won best director for Mexican filmmaker Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, best original screenplay and best cinematography.

“Maybe next year the government will inflict immigration restrictions,” said Innaritu, recalling last year’s best director winner, Alfonso Cuaron. “Two Mexicans in a row. That’s suspicious, I guess.”

Inarritu, a larger-than-life figure of frizzy hair regularly wrapped in a scarf, concluded the night’s many moving speeches that called for societal progress. Inarritu said he prays his native country finds “a government we deserve” and that immigrants to the U.S. “can be treated with the same dignity and the respect of the ones who came before and (built) this incredible immigrant nation.”

The ceremony at the Dolby Theatre, hosted by Tony Award veteran Neil Patrick Harris, was heavy on song-and-dance to near-Grammy levels. Lady Gaga lavishly performed “The Hills Are Alive” from “The Sound of Music” with a rapt Julie Andrews looking on.

The awards overwhelmingly went to less-seen independent films and were widely spread around. All eight of the best-picture nominees won awards, including Eddie Redmayne for best actor for his technically nuanced performance as Stephen Hawking in “The Theory of Everything.”

“Please know this that I am fully aware that I am a lucky, lucky man,” said the young British actor. “This belongs to all of the people around the world battling ALS.”

All of Sunday’s big winners were first-timers, including best actress winner Julianne Moore, who won for her performance as an academic with early onset Alzheimer’s in “Still Alice.”

“I read an article that said that winning an Oscar could lead to living five years longer,” said Moore. “If that’s true, I’d really like to thank the academy because my husband is young than me.”

Harris gave the Academy Awards a cheery tone that sought to celebrate Hollywood, while also slyly parodying it. He began the night: “Tonight we honor Hollywood’s best and whitest—I mean brightest.”

Though Richard Linklater’s 12-years-in-making “Boyhood” was the critical favorite for much of awards season, it won only best supporting actress for Patricia Arquette.

See BIRDMAN on Page 20

AP

J.K. Simmons, winner of the award for best actor in a supporting role for “Whiplash”, from left, Patricia Arquette, winner of the award for best actress in a supporting role for “Boyhood”, Julianne Moore, winner of the award for best actress in a leading role for “Still Alice”, and Eddie Redmayne, winner of the award for best actor in a leading role for “The Theory of Everything”, pose in the press room at the Oscars on Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

WINNERS’ LIST

List of winners at Sunday’s 87th annual Academy Awards presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences:

Best picture: “Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance).”
Actor: Eddie Redmayne, “The Theory of Everything.”
Actress: Julianne Moore, “Still Alice.”
Supporting actor: J.K. Simmons, “Whiplash.”
Supporting actress: Patricia Arquette, “Boyhood.”
Directing: Alejandro G. Inarritu, “Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance).”
Foreign language film: “Ida.”
Adapted screenplay: Graham Moore, “The Imitation Game.”
Original screenplay: Alejandro G. Inarritu, Nicolas Giacobone, Alexander Dinelaris Jr. and Armando Bo, “Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance).”
Animated feature film: “Big Hero 6.”
Production design: “The Grand Budapest Hotel.”
Cinematography: “Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance).”
Sound mixing: “Whiplash.”
Sound editing: “American Sniper.”
Original score: “The Grand Budapest Hotel.”
Original song: “Glory” from “Selma.”
Costume design: “The Grand Budapest Hotel.”
Documentary feature: “CitizenFour.”
Documentary (short subject): “Crisis Hotline: Veterans Press 1.”
Film editing: “Whiplash.”
Makeup and hairstyling: “The Grand Budapest Hotel.”
Animated short film: “Feast.”
Live action short film: “The Phone Call.”
Visual effects: “Interstellar.”

In Loving Memory of

†Rufina Celis Delos Santos Atalig

Also lovingly known as *“Auntie Fina* or *Ruth”*

(April 6, 1947 – February 20, 2015)

was called to her eternal rest on Friday, February 20th, 2015 at the age of 67.

In her new life she, now joins her loved ones:

Parents: †Luis Pangelinan Delos Santos (Lenchu)
†Rufina Celis Delos Santos
Son: †Raymond Santos Atalig
Nephew: † Wilfred Atalig Taisacan

Brothers, Sisters, & In-Laws:
†Maria Delos Santos Curb & Lee Curb,
†Maximina Celis Delos Santos

†Parents In-Law:
†Jose Camacho Atalig (Caban) & †Maria Blanco Barcinas Atalig
Brothers & Sisters In-Law:
†Augusto B. & Ana C. Atalig
†Antonia Barcinas Atalig-Diaz
†Lydia A. & †Leon I. Taisacan
†Manuel Barcinas Atalig
†Juanita Barcinas Atalig

She will forever live in the hearts of her:

Spouse: Fidel Barcinas Atalig
Children & Grandchildren:
Marian A. & Marcelo Kileleman (Keith)
Fidel Jr. S. & Isabel T. Atalig
(Jhaneeka, Delsarae, Maria, Ayanna, Devina)
Joseph S. & Louisa T. Atalig (Davian)
Dwayne S. & Kenye A. Atalig
(Crystal, Heaven, Diamonique, Angellyna, Dwayne Jr.)
Brothers, Sisters, & In-Laws:
Ana S. & Patrick Brockett (Florida)
Juana S. Crisostomo & Children (Florida)
Rosalia S. & Berno Borja & Children (Hawaii)
Antonio C. & Marilyn E. Santos & Children
Brothers In-Law & Sisters In-Law:
Jose Barcinas & Maria Atalig (San Diego, California) & Children
†Augusto B. & Ana C. Atalig (Debra A. & Perry B. Inos & Children)
†Lydia A. & †Leon I. Taisacan (Ronald, Dennis, Caroline, Lillian & Children)
†Antonia A. & Leonardo Flores Diaz & Children
Special Friend: Ida

She will be greatly missed by numerous Aunts, Uncles, Nieces, Nephews and friends.

Daily Mass is being offered at 6:00 pm followed by the Holy Rosary at 7:00pm at the San Vicente Church.
On Saturday, February 28th, 2015 the body of our dearly departed will leave Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Chapel at 7:30 am and will be escorted to San Vicente Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00am followed by interment services at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

From her Spouse, Fidel Barcinas Atalig, Children, Grandchildren, & Family.

No surprise, Neil Patrick Harris brought sparkle to Oscars

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP TELEVISION WRITER

Broadway and TV did Hollywood a favor, sharing Neil Patrick Harris for duties hosting the Oscars. Harris not only did himself proud, as expected after numerous triumphs presiding over the Tonys and Emmys. Even better, he stewarded an Oscarcast that made up in charm what it lacked in suspense.

First-time host Harris briskly welcomed the audience by declaring, "Tonight, we honor Hollywood's best and whitest—excuse me, brightest." No time wasted mentioning the much-discussed lack of diversity among Oscar acting nominees.

Then on with the opening number!

BROADWAY IN HOLLYWOOD

It came as no surprise that Harris was the driver of a slam-bang opening number. That's what he does. But Sunday's tribute to films, past and present, was among his best award-show performances, and the equal of any Oscar kickoff in memory.

Thanks to computer imagery, Harris sang and danced with multiple Marilyn Monroes, and joined such cinema landscapes as the "Wizard of Oz's" Land of Oz and the "Field of Dreams."

Jack Black stormed the stage to decry the corrupt money-mindedness of Hollywood, ranting about "its margin trends and fickle friends and Hollywood baloney — believe me, Neil, you're better off just polishing your Tony."

But that wasn't the message of Harris' extravaganza. Hooray for Hollywood AND Harris!

WHAT'S OSCAR UP TO?

The glittery stage setting at the Dolby Theater was eye-popping. But if you looked closely, you saw the many oversized Oscar statuettes that adorned it were impaled on their rods like pogo sticks, or astride them like pole dancers. A little nod to "Fifty Shades of Grey," perhaps?

Harris

GLORIOUS NUMBER

Perhaps the evening's most moving display was the expansive performance of "Glory," the Oscar-winning song from "Selma," with composers Common and John Legend performing alongside dozens of fellow "marchers" on the stage setting of Selma, Alabama's Edmund Pettus Bridge.

TOO FAR?

Occasionally smart-aleck Harris' mischief might have crossed the line. A wisecrack directed at Oprah Winfrey at the top of the show flopped.

And it was unclear just what he was getting at, if anything, when he said that NSA whistle-blower Edward Snowden, the subject of the Oscar-winning documentary "CitizenFour," ''could not be here tonight for some treason"?

Awkward? Not for Harris, with skill for quick, comedic recovery.

CALL THE 'RENTS!

It was no shock when J.K. Simmons' name was called for best supporting actor Oscar in "Whiplash."

His acceptance remarks were refreshing, though, as he offered a shout-out for parents around the globe. Pivoting from praise for his wife's parenting of their three children, he urged the legions watching to "call your mom, call your dad." And no texts or emails. "Call them on the phone and tell 'em you love 'em, and thank them and listen to them for as long as they want to talk to you.

"Thank you, mom and dad," he said as he left the podium.

MORE ADVICE: STAY WEIRD

Graham Moore, winner of best adapted screenplay for "The Imitation Game," dedicated his win to any youngsters who felt they were different and don't fit in.

"Yes, you do, I promise you do," declared Moore, who said he attempted suicide as a teen because of his own discomfort. "Stay weird, stay different, and when it's your turn and you're standing on this stage, pass the message to the next person who's coming along."

HARRIS IN BRIEF

The host performed a clever homage to "Birdman." Locked out of his dressing room clad only in his tighty-whities, he dashed through back hallways, spoofing Michael Keaton's similarly undressed stride through Times Square, with similar percussion accompaniment, until he reached the stage to declare sheepishly, "Acting is a noble profession."

All demonstrating Harris is a great sport—and really buff!

BATHROOM BREAK

Just as the evening is running long and viewers are getting restless, an Oscarcast typically inserts an overlong, gratuitous element into the proceedings to slow things down and really try the audience's patience.

A fine but excessive golden-anniversary tribute to "The Sound of Music" was this year's entry, complete with film clips, a medley by Lady Gaga and reminiscences by its star, Julie Andrews.

It was heartwarming, sure. But too much, much too late.

OSCAR PREDICTION

And speaking of too late, Harris' Oscar soothsaying feat would have come across as a clever ruse had the show not been some 40 minutes overtime, with the best picture yet to be announced.

Prediction: That's a gimmick that won't be tried again.

BIRDMAN

From Page 19

"To every woman who gave birth, to every taxpayer and citizen of this nation," said Arquette. "We have fought for everybody else's equal rights. It's our time to have wage equality once for all. And equal rights for women in the United States of America."

Cheers erupted throughout the Dolby, perhaps the loudest coming from a fellow supporting-actress nominee Arquette bested: Meryl Streep. "Made my night," Streep told Arquette backstage.

Tears streamed down the face of David Oyelowo, who played the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in "Selma" and was infamously left out of the best actor nominees, during the rousing performance of the song "Glory" from the film. Immediately afterward, Common and John Legend accepted the best song Oscar with a speech that drew a standing ovation.

"We say that 'Selma' is now, because the struggle for justice is right now," said Legend. "We know that the voting rights act that they fought for 50 years ago is being compromised right now in this country today. We know that right now the struggle for freedom and justices where we live in the most incarcerated country in the world."

Graham Moore also moved the star-studded audience, accepting best adapted screenplay for his "The Imitation Game" script about Alan Turing, who was chemically castrated for being homosexual. Moore said when he was 16 years old he tried to kill himself, and urged others to never lose faith: "Stay weird. Stay different."

Wes Anderson's "The Grand Budapest Hotel," a European caper released way back in March, tied for the most Oscars with "Birdman." The academy awarded Anderson's latest confection with more awards (production design, score, costume design and makeup and styling) than any previous film by the director.

Best supporting actor went to J.K. Simmons, a career character actor widely acclaimed for one of his biggest parts: a drill sergeant of a jazz instructor in the indie "Whiplash." Simmons fittingly accepted his supporting acting Oscar with some straightforward advice, urging: "Call your mom. Call your dad."

Most of the awards went as expected, though Disney's "Big Hero 6" pulled off an upset in the best animated feature category, besting DreamWorks' favored "How to Train Your Dragon 2."

The Mexican cinematographer Emmanuel "Chivo" Lubezki became the first to win best cinematography twice in a row. After last year winning for the lengthy shots of the space adventure "Gravity," he won for the stretched out takes of "Birdman." Recalling Inarritu's plans to shoot it as if in one shot, Lubezki said he responded: "It sounds like a nightmare."

In Loving Memory of Our Dearly Beloved

†Maria Reiko Tanaka Diaz

October 10, 1926 • February 20, 2015

Called to her eternal rest by our Lord at 88 years old

In Her New Life, She Now Joins Her:
Husband: *†Francisco Diaz Diaz*
Children: *†Francisco "Musco" T. Diaz and †Victorina D. Jones*
Parents: *†Ei Tanaka and †Harue Tanaka*
Parents In-Law: *†Francisco Dela Cruz Diaz and †Maria Torres Diaz*
Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws: *†Vicente D. Diaz & †Teresa U. Diaz, †Isabel D. Diaz, †Nicolas D. Diaz, †Rosa D. Gonzales & †Clark Gonzales, †Rita D. Sablan, †Concepcion D. & †Juan LG. Cabrera, †Antonio D. Diaz & †Maria M. Diaz, †Emeliana D. Diaz, †Jose D. Diaz & †Thomasa U. Diaz, †Juana D. Diaz, †Rita D. Diaz, †Maria D. Diaz and †Joaquin P. Villagomez & †Emeliana S. Villagomez*

She will dearly be missed by her:
Children, Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren:

- ***Edward*** *T. & Debra P. Diaz and Family*
- ***Elizabeth*** *D. & Ramon Rechebei and Family*
- ***†Francisco*** *"Musco" T. Diaz's Family*
- ***Margaret*** *D. & Juan "Robit" C. Tudela and Family*
- ***David*** *T. & Thasnee "Usa" S. Diaz and Family*

Siblings: *Akiko Watanabe and Kazuyuki Tanaka*
Brother In-Law: *Herman S. Sablan*

Our dearly beloved will also be missed by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

Daily Eucharistic Celebrations are offered at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 6:00am and will continue until Monday, March 09, 2015.

Family visitation and viewing will take place at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel on Thursday, February 26, 2015 from 6:00pm till 9:00pm.

Funeral Services will be held on Friday, February 27, 2015. She will lie in state from 7:00am at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel and will be escorted to Nuestra Senora de Soledad Church in Kagman at 8:30am. Responso Service will take place upon arrival of remains.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am followed by entombment at the family crypt at Sanctuario PAX Memorial Gardens in Kagman where she will be at a peaceful rest with her husband †Francisco.

Your thoughts, prayers and presence will be greatly appreciated.

Please join us in prayers,

Si Yu'us Ma'ase - Domo Arigato - Thank You

The Children and family of the late †Francisco Diaz Diaz and †Maria Reiko Tanaka Diaz

Lupita's pearls, Margot's plunge earn red carpet raves

By LEANNE ITALIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

On this Oscars red carpet, the statement necklaces went home with multiple trophies.

"The necklaces, in some ways, overshadowed the gowns," said fashion insider Hal Rubenstein.

Other observers agreed (Cate Blanchett wore chunky turquoise), but Sunday night's looks were generally considered classic Academy Awards.

They weren't overtly outrageous or revealing, with a show of high necks, long sleeves and allure over skin-baring cutouts, with the usual exemption for Jennifer Lopez. She was in a chest-revealing pale fawn-colored princess gown.

Overall, said Yahoo Style editor in chief Joe Zee, "There were no train wrecks. There was no Helena Bonham Carter moment."

Eric Wilson, fashion news director for InStyle magazine, welcomed a turn away from strapless. And he was most impressed by a few of the heavily embellished dresses that appeared more beads and sequins than fabric.

"They almost looked molded. And the whole neckline situation has been great in terms of the variety," he said.

A few of the night's fashion moments:

SCARLETT JOHANSSON

She wore a body-hugging Versace in emerald, her short hair shaved at the sides. Count her among the wearer of statement necklaces, but this one in a good way, said Rubenstein, a longtime fashion critic. Emeralds dripped off the piece, which fit her like a collar and came to a long point in the shade of her body-hugging sleeveless dress that had a deep V.

"That was an incredibly feminine necklace," he added. "She was the sexiest. There was an unexpected balance to all of it that really worked terrifically."

LADY GAGA

Her gloves were long, red and winged, her dress a textured white—brighter than her grayish hair done in a low ponytail. The full gown had wide armholes that offered a peek of her side tattoos. There were the usual haters, but Rubenstein wasn't one of them.

"Even with the Playtex gloves, it still is an amazing Alaia," he said. "I think that's an incredible dress."

Zee wasn't a hater.

"I liked Gaga. In a way it's a little more restrained than what she's done," he said. "It's not comical but it still had personality."

LUPITA NYONG'O

The It fashion girl wore a custom Calvin Klein Collection pearl-and-ivory beaded dress by Francisco Costa, the brand's creative director for women. And by beads, we mean more than 6,000 of them in various sizes, culminating in a strappy back.

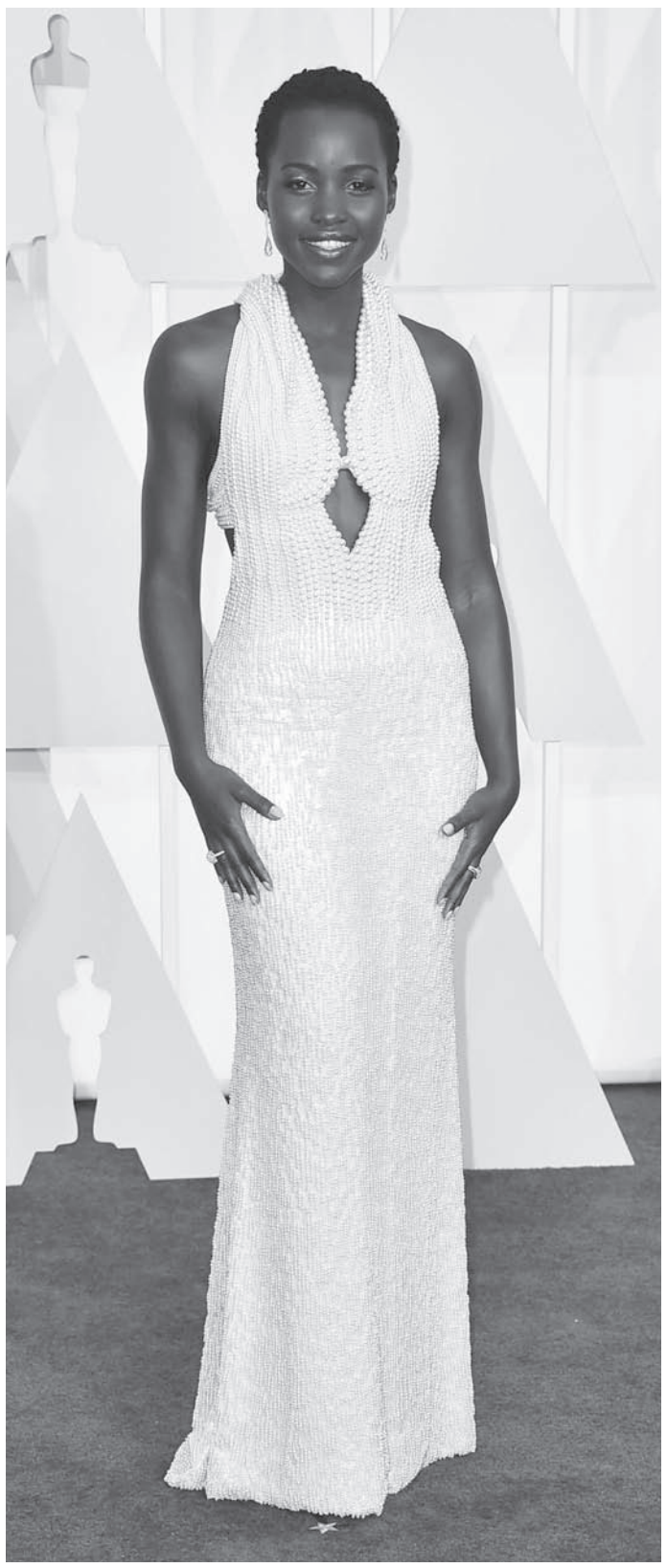
"Francisco is the ultimate minimalist," Rubenstein said. "Well, can you get any more maximal than 6,000 pearls in a dress? It's beautiful. Other than the earrings there was no other jewelry. I really loved it. Lupita was the most splendiferous."

Wilson called the encrusted look "spectacular" and Joyann King, editor of Harpers-Bazaar.com, exclaimed: "My jaw dropped. It was absolutely stunning."

MARION COTILLARD

She went with white like Nyong'o and several others. Hers was silk by Dior Haute Couture in an off-white and embroidered in a circular design. It had a small train and billowed at the back in an ode to Old Hollywood.

"The dress is incredible but only when you see it from the back," Rubenstein said. "It's probably the most daring piece of fashion of the night. The red carpet is not the runway. We look for glamour, not innovation. But this was a dress that really is about fashion, with the Balenciaga-like back. It truly is a 'fashion' dress, but there's something so natural about Dior and Cotillard."



AP

Lupita Nyong'o arrives at the Oscars on Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Cotillard, a Dior brand ambassador, was the perfect example of something new on the Oscars fashion scene, Wilson said.

"From the front it looks like a classic dress but once she turned around you saw that amazing draped Watteau back. It's an 18th-century style named after the painter," he explained.

The painter being Jean-Antoine Watteau and the dress a creation of Raf Simons.

JULIANNE MOORE

She wore Chanel couture, strapless and white with pops of color in applique at the chest, below the waist and at the hem. Karl Lagerfeld designed it himself with 80,000 small sequins. With her red hair back and minimal jewelry, the dress was allowed to sing.

"It's an extraordinary piece of haute couture," Rubenstein said. "It was this explosion of iridescent sequins. She's the one person not wearing a statement necklace. She was the most elegant."

Wilson added, "There was barely any fabric there. It was almost entirely embellished. It's spectacular to see something like that on the red carpet."

King said: "She really is the winner of the entire awards season."

MARGOT ROBBIE

Sure, there was a big necklace. A Van Cleef & Arpels with diamonds and sapphires set in 18-karat gold, to be exact. But her black Saint Laurent Paris was smoking hot against her straight blonde bob and bright red lip. The front was low and draped and the long sleeves sheer.

"She was probably the sleekest and most modern," Rubenstein said.

While not his favorite, Wilson said "it was a way to show off the body without being revealing."

King called it "gothic glamour."

NAOMI WATTS

She wore embellished Armani Prive with a mosaic look that had a broken shell effect. The front had a bib and the back a black sequined bra-like bandeaux.

"It's going to be one of the more divisive looks of the night because from afar she looks like a brick wall but when you look at it up close it's really incredible," Wilson said.

DAKOTA JOHNSON

The "Fifty Shades of Grey" costar also wore Saint Laurent, a one-shoulder number in red with a touch of chunky embellishment.

"She was really sultry. I thought it was maybe a little play on the red room in 'Fifty Shades,'" King said.

Zee also loved Johnson, whose messy ponytail was a bit Anastasia Steele.

"There was something fun and youthful and fresh about her," Zee said. "In the past we've had these young girls in their 20s dressing like they're in their 40s."

EMMA STONE

Stone has been pushing the envelope on red carpets this season, showing up once in pants. This time, the celery green color of her custom Elie Saab earned raves, though Rubenstein wasn't all that impressed.

The heavily beaded, high-slit gown had long embellished sheer sleeves and popped against her pale skin and red hair. It was high in the front and plunged in the back.

"And she dyed her shoes to match," Zee said. "Not everybody could carry off the color, but she did."

Seldom-seen wife spends more time with mom than husband

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to "Carla" for 16 years. It's my second marriage. My problem is I never see her. She has always spent more time with her mother than with me. We see each other for about an hour a day after she returns from her mom's, usually at 9:45 to 10 p.m.

I have had several conversations about this with her over the years, but nothing seems to work. We'll argue and she starts to cry, and it ends without a resolution. Her mother is in her mid-80s and has had her share of health problems.

Carla has a sister who could help out, but rarely does. I have had health problems of my own—a kidney transplant and several bouts of skin cancer—but she doesn't seem to care as much about my problems as she does her mom's. Her mother even tells her to go home to be with me, to no avail.

I love my wife, but my isolation and loneliness are finally getting to me. How can I convince her that this isn't fair to me or our marriage? How much longer do I take it?

LONELY IN ILLINOIS

DEAR LONELY: I feel sorry for both of you. Your wife may be trying so hard to be a responsible daughter that she has forgotten you need her, too. Your sister-in-law should have stepped up and started doing her share long ago—and she still may if you and your wife talk to her about it together.

I don't know what your schedule is like, but you might have more time with Carla if you went with her to your mother-in-law's occasionally. It might also improve your communication if the two of you went for marriage counseling. If Carla's mother has to insist she go home to you, there may be reasons other than her mother's health for Carla's spending so much time away.

Nothing will change until you get to the bottom of it, so don't let your wife's tears prevent you. And if your wife resists seeing a counselor, go without her.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I recently quit our jobs and moved to London from New York. Being a freelancer and having lived here before, he's never had trouble finding work. But I have just changed careers, and I'm finding it hard to earn a consistent paycheck here.

Despite his constant assurances that he is happy supporting both of us right now, I can't shake feeling guilty. I have never felt right living on someone else's dime—not even my parents' while I was growing up. Should I man up and find a job I don't exactly love to better contribute, or "keep on truckin'" without guilt with hopes of getting there?

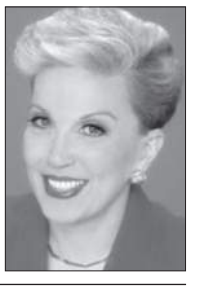
GUILTY IN LONDON

DEAR GUILTY: Because of your history, I'm not sure you are capable of happily "keepin' on truckin'" without contributing financially. For some people, the sense of independence they derive from having a job is important to their self-worth.

I say, look around and see if there are some job openings. It's better than sitting around moping and feeling guilty, and it might give you and your husband a chance to make some new friends.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



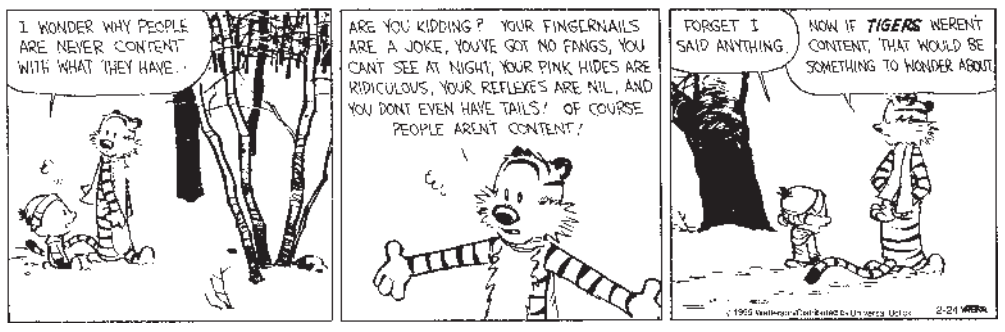
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I WONDER WHY PEOPLE ARE NEVER CONTENT WITH WHAT THEY HAVE.
ARE YOU KIDDING? YOUR FINGERNAILS ARE A JOKE, YOU'VE GOT NO FANGS, YOU CAN'T SEE AT NIGHT, YOUR PINK HIDES ARE RIDICULOUS, YOUR REFLEXES ARE NIL, AND YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TAILS! OF COURSE PEOPLE AREN'T CONTENT!
FORGET I SAID ANYTHING.
NOW IF TIGERS WEREN'T CONTENT, THAT WOULD BE SOMETHING TO WONDER ABOUT.
2-24

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

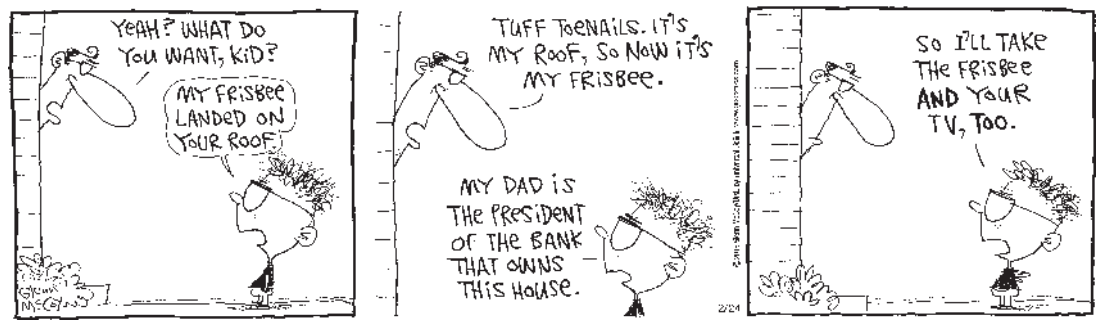
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HERE. ONE SMALL SKINNY LATTE AND A NON-FAT YOGURT.
SIGH. YOU KNOW, THERE ARE OTHER COFFEE SHOPS AROUND.
I MEAN, EVEN IF IT'S FOR MY HEALTH, DENYING ME FATTY FOODS IS BAD BUSINESS.
IT'S PROBABLY AGAINST THE LAW. REMEMBER THAT SAYING: "THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS RIGHT"?
"EXCEPT WHEN THEY'RE ADAM."
YOU MADE THAT PART UP!!
2-24

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


YEAH? WHAT DO YOU WANT, KID?
MY FRISBEE LANDED ON YOUR ROOF.
TUFF TOENAILS. IT'S MY ROOF, SO NOW IT'S MY FRISBEE.
MY DAD IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE BANK THAT OWNS THIS HOUSE.
SO I'LL TAKE THE FRISBEE AND YOUR TV, TOO.
2/24

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Harvest
5 Crafty
8 One of Henry VIII's Catherines
12 Shrek is one
13 Go like the wind
14 Hodgepodge
15 French fries, e.g.
17 Turnpike payment
18 Curvy letter
19 Scepter
20 Relieve
21 Trench
22 Sticky stuff
23 Take ten
26 Baby food
30 Blueprint
31 The whole shooting match
32 Nevada city
33 Whodunit
35 Make pigtails
36 Sphere
37 Luau staple
38 O'Neill's specialty
41 Claiborne of fashion
42 Energy
45 Hindu royal
46 Grand view
48 Teensy bit
49 Superlative ending
50 Rainbow
51 Actor Hackman
52 Personal question?
53 Prohibits

DOWN
1 "Clue" weapon
2 Ids' counterparts
3 The "A" in "A&E"
4 Pod occupant
5 "Phooey!"
6 Told a big one
7 "Of course"
8 Sachet mixture
9 Bum soother
10 Streamlet
11 Somersault
16 Silly Rabbit's desired cereal
20 Weep loudly
21 Marceau forte
22 Cowboy's sweetie
23 Spinning meas.
24 Tarzan portrayer Ron
25 Part of UNLV
26 Thickness
27 Meadow
28 Half of bi-
29 Chic, in the '60s
31 Wall St. wheeler-dealer
34 Mound stat
35 Long-popular clown
37 Mottled pony
38 Party pooper
39 Assess
40 In due time
41 Whip
42 Brazilian rubber
43 Eastern potentate
44 Just say no
46 Church seat
47 Type of steak

Solution time: 22 mins.

C	Γ	F			A	B	C		B	U	-	B
P	O	L	O		B	A	H		O	R	E	O
E	W	E	R		A	N	I		U	N	I	T
C	L	E	A	N		G	L	E	N			
			N	I	P		I	N	T	O	T	O
G	A	R	G	L	E	D		S	Y	R	U	P
A	C	E	E		C	U	M		H	E	B	E
B	R	A	C	E		D	E	F	U	S	E	D
S	A	M	O	A	N		W	A	N			
			U	I	A	H		S	I	A	H	K
A	M	E	N		S	U	M		E	V	E	N
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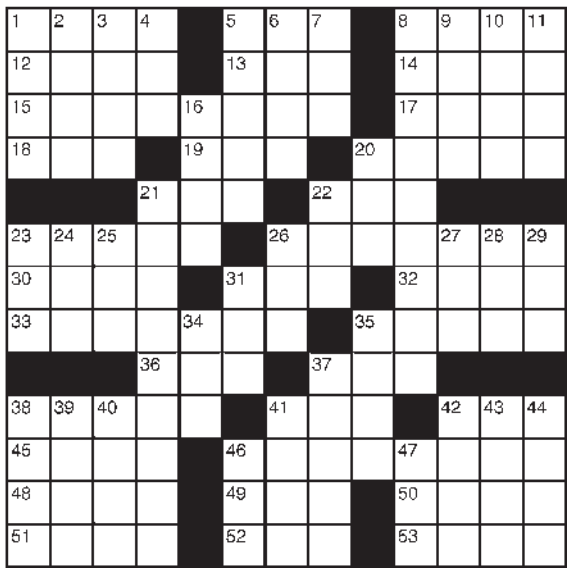
Yesterday's answer 2-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Billy Zane, 49; Debra Jo Rupp, 64; Helen Shaver, 64; Edward James Olmos, 68.

Happy Birthday: Take action and take over. Moving into a leadership position will allow you the benefit of making choices that will influence your surroundings. What you learn this year will contribute to and influence the goals you set for years to come. Leave room for rest, relaxation and play, or you will run out of steam before you reach your desired destination. Your numbers are 7, 12, 20, 27, 31, 39, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You'll be moving along at lightning speed, making it imperative that you are cognizant of what those around you are doing, even if they appear to be moving at a snail's pace. Take a moment to tell someone special how much you care. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Keep your thoughts to yourself. If you share your secrets with someone, he or she will disappoint you, causing a dispute that can affect your partnership. Less talk will help you avoid a confrontation. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): The more you contribute to a cause or joint venture, the more you will get back. Take a position of leadership, but don't make promises you cannot keep. Maintaining an honest balance between enthusiasm, hope and reality will be what makes you popular. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Proceed with caution. Someone you least expect will try to make you look bad or ruin your chance to advance. Stay on top of any project you are given. Giving anyone too much responsibility will end in disaster. Partnerships will be difficult. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take flight and do your own thing. Everything you touch will turn to gold. Your charisma will lead to greater popularity. Personal improvement will turn out well, and relationships will be enhanced if you offer praise or a commitment. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Money, legal or medical issues are best taken care of before they have a chance to worsen. Stabilize your situation at home and at work. Listen to complaints and offer realistic solutions that can be implemented quickly. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): A change in the way you feel will lead to a better personal environment or connection to someone important in your life. Speak up and share your ideas, thoughts and intentions. Once you establish your position, much can be accomplished. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Focus on the people who motivate and inspire you to follow your dreams or pursue a creative talent. Fix up your surroundings to encourage relaxation, and it will ease your stress and promote a strong emotional connection with someone special. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Make changes to your home that will offer more opportunities to entertain company or pursue a hobby that you are interested in. Self-improvement projects will make you feel good about yourself. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Be careful how you deal with individuals. Not everyone will agree with you, and opposition will escalate if you push your ideas on others. Concentrate on creating an environment that works for you and doesn't disturb those around you. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Work-related matters should be dealt with. Check out a new job posting, update your resume or start your own small business. Whatever you do, strive to stabilize your professional position and reach your goals. Rekindle an important relationship. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll be questioned. Have your facts in order before you enter into a conversation that will determine your ability to make your next move. The stakes are high, and preparation will make a difference to the outcome. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are protective and considerate. You are sensitive and intuitive.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1		4			2		
4		3		8			5	
	6		2					9
9		6						
	3						7	
						8		2
5					1		3	
	7			5		6		4
		4			2		8	

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	3	4	6	9	2	1	8	5
2	5	6	8	7	1	9	4	3
1	8	9	3	4	5	2	6	7
3	1	8	5	2	9	6	7	4
9	2	5	7	6	4	8	3	1
4	6	7	1	3	8	5	9	2
5	7	3	9	1	6	4	2	8
6	4	1	2	8	3	7	5	9
8	9	2	4	5	7	3	1	6

Difficulty Level ★ 2/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GOING TO THE PARK **Solution: 9 letters**

S	J	P	B	M	I	L	C	I	N	C	I	P	S	L
G	D	L	L	A	B	A	T	E	L	L	A	W	T	A
N	N	N	U	A	B	Y	T	E	K	S	A	B	R	D
I	E	I	E	A	Y	E	B	S	D	S	D	N	O	D
W	G	I	N	I	K	G	R	B	E	N	N	E	P	E
S	D	A	G	N	R	B	R	E	U	E	A	T	S	R
R	I	G	A	Ⓗ	U	F	S	O	L	C	R	S	L	S
A	R	L	Ⓘ	C	B	R	R	L	U	L	L	T	I	K
B	B	Ⓛ	K	E	O	O	E	U	I	N	O	A	A	C
Y	Ⓛ	E	N	O	G	D	R	T	L	D	D	R	R	A
E	T	C	D	Y	S	I	R	H	A	E	E	E	T	N
K	H	T	R	M	N	E	G	I	O	W	S	M	I	S
N	U	R	A	G	Y	M	Y	E	N	O	M	A	U	G
O	E	E	S	L	E	N	N	U	T	K	D	C	R	U
M	B	E	A	C	H	E	S	Y	L	I	M	A	F	B

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Yesterday's Answer: Count

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- Licensed by the Medical Profession Licensing Board, CNMI
- Flexible with time schedule

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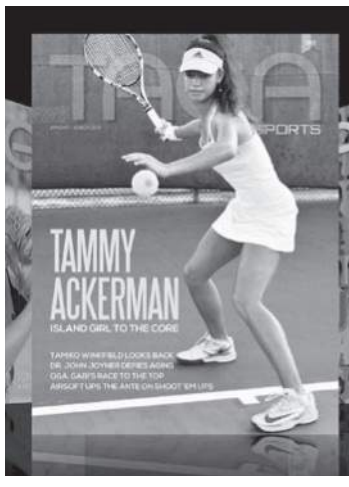

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Lakers stop 7-game losing streak with OT win over Celtics

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jeremy Lin had a season-high 25 points, and the Los Angeles Lakers snapped a seven-game losing streak with a 118-111 overtime victory against the Boston Celtics on Sunday night.

Wesley Johnson added a season-high 22 points and Nick Young finished with 19, helping the Lakers win for only the second time in 18 games. The other victory during that stretch came in double overtime at home against Chicago on Jan. 29. They haven't won in regulation since Jan. 9, when they beat Orlando 101-84 at Staples Center.

Isaiah Thomas, making his Celtics debut after Thursday's trade from Phoenix, scored 21 points in 25 minutes before he was ejected with 5:03 left in regulation and Boston trailing 91-87.

Celtics guard Avery Bradley got eight of his 20 points in the final 27 seconds of the fourth quarter, including a buzzer-beating 3-pointer that sent the game to OT. But the Lakers outscored the Celtics 12-5 in overtime. Jae Crowder led Boston with 22 points off the bench.

Boston took a 78-73 lead into the fourth, thanks in part to the 25 points they scored off 16 Lakers turnovers. But Johnson's 3-pointer put the Lakers ahead 85-84 lead with 8:15 remaining.

Thomas and Young then traded 3s before Thomas picked up two technical fouls for disputing an offensive foul on the Celtics' next possession.

The Lakers took full advantage of their sudden good fortune and pulled away to a 98-89 margin with 3:54 remaining. Lin scored nine points during a 2:22 span of the fourth, but the Lakers couldn't close it out in regulation. Bradley hit a 3 and a layup before forcing overtime with his fourth 3-pointer of the game.

Boston led 58-56 at halftime with double-digit scoring from Bradley, Brandon Bass and Thomas, who had 15 points. Lin made a three-point play with 6:10 left in the second quarter to give the Lakers their first lead, 43-42, after they fell behind by as many as nine. He led the team with 12 points in the half despite being the sixth player off the bench.

Despite Boston's 20-33 record, coach Brad Stevens can still get his team into the playoffs. The Celtics are 2 1/2 games out of the eighth seed in the weak Eastern Conference with 29 games left on the schedule and four teams to jump over to get there.

AP

Los Angeles Lakers guard Jeremy Lin, right, drives around Boston Celtics guard Evan Turner during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015. The Los Angeles Lakers won 118-111 in overtime.

Pacers 104, Warriors 98

In Indianapolis, Rodney Stuckey scored 30 points to help Indiana beat NBA-leading Golden State.

The Warriors played without star guard Stephen Curry for the first time this season. He sat out because of soreness in his right ankle.

Showing little signs of the left ankle sprain he suffered in a victory at Philadelphia on Friday night, Stuckey made a cutting layup off a pass from David West to give Indiana a 91-90 lead with 3:58 left.

C.J. Miles added 13 points. He made a 3-poiner from the right wing with 26.5 seconds to make it 101-97.

Klay Thompson scored 39 points for Golden State. Andre Iguodala added 14.

Thunder 119, Nuggets 94

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook had 21 points and a career-high 17 assists as Oklahoma City beat Denver without Kevin Durant.

Durant was out after a procedure Sunday to replace a screw that was causing soreness in his surgically repaired right foot. The reigning NBA MVP is expected to return this season.

Enes Kanter had 20 points and 12 rebounds for the Thunder, who have won six straight and eight of nine. Serge Ibaka added 20 points, eight rebounds and eight assists.

Ty Lawson scored 17 points for Denver. The Nuggets gave lost seven of eight.

Grizzlies 98, Trail Blazers 92

In Portland, Oregon, Marc Gasol scored 21 points as Memphis overcame a 13-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat Portland.

LaMarcus Aldridge was a late scratch for the Blazers because of a right thumb sprain. It was unclear how the four-time All-Star injured the thumb; he was out warming up with the team before the game.

The Grizzlies, off to the best start in franchise history at 40-14, were coming off a 10-day layoff because of the All-Star break.

Damian Lillard had 18 points for Portland.

Hawks 97, Bucks 86

In Milwaukee, Paul Millsap had 23 points and 16 rebounds, and Kyle Korver added 12 points as Atlanta beat Milwaukee to avoid its first three-game losing streak of the season.

Korver hit three 3-pointers in the fourth quarter after Atlanta squandered an early 16-point lead.

Giannis Antetokounmpo and Khris Middleton each had 19 points for Milwaukee. The Bucks had won four straight.

Mavericks 92, Hornets 81

In Dallas, Monta Ellis scored 15 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter and Amare Stoudemire had 14 points in 11 minutes in his Dallas debut in the Mavericks' victory over Charlotte.

Stoudemire made his first appearance in an NBA game since Feb. 11. He was signed by Dallas during the All-Star break after his contract was bought out by the New York Knicks.

Mo Williams scored 22 points for the Hornets. Williams, acquired from Minnesota on Feb. 10, also led Charlotte in scoring in his team debut Saturday night, finishing with 28 against Oklahoma City.

Pistons 106, Wizards 89

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope had 26 points, and Andre Drummond added 18 points and 16 rebounds as new-look Detroit beat Washington.

The Pistons are 2-0 since coach and president Stan Van Gundy traded four players to get Reggie Jackson and Tayshaun Prince at the trading deadline Thursday. Greg Monroe had 15 points and 15 rebounds, and Jackson finished with 17 points as Detroit put seven players in double figures.

Marcin Gortat had 24 points and 10 rebounds for the Wizards.

Magic 103, 76ers 98

In Orlando, Florida, Nik Vucevic had 31 points and 14 rebounds as Orlando beat Philadelphia for its first three-game winning streak of the season.

Victor Oladipo scored 17 points for the Magic, who nearly squandered a 12-point lead in the final five minutes. Willie Green had 16 points, and Channing Frye finished with 15.

JaKarr Sampson and Robert Covington had 16 points apiece for Philadelphia.

Cavaliers 101, Knicks 83

In New York, LeBron James and Kyrie Irving each scored 18 points, and J.R. Smith had 17 and hooked up with Iman Shumpert on a dazzling dunk in their return to New York as the Cleveland Cavaliers crushed the Knicks.

James moved past Allen Iverson into 22nd place on the career scoring list, and added seven rebounds and seven assists. Kevin Love finished with 16 points and 16 boards, combining with James and Irving to outscore the inept Knicks in the first half.

Cleveland won for the 16th time in 18 games and got good performances from Smith and Shumpert, who were acquired by the Cavs on Jan. 5 and have helped solidify a team that was still below .500 shortly after the trade. The Cavaliers are 35-22 and have been untouchable since returning from the All-Star break, hammering Washington by 38 on Friday night and leading this one by 30.

Langston Galloway scored 13 points for the Knicks. They have lost seven straight to drop to 10-45.

Durant has foot procedure, expected back this season

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Kevin Durant had surgery Sunday to alleviate pain in his right foot, and the Oklahoma City Thunder expect him to return during the regular season.

A screw was replaced from his October operation for a broken bone in the right foot. Thunder general manager Sam Presti said the star forward will be evaluated again within a week.

Presti said the head of the original screw was rubbing against the cuboid bone in the foot, causing discomfort. The new screw does not have a head. Presti said the new hardware won't affect the already positive long-term prognosis.

Durant has played in just 27 games this season because of the broken foot, sprained right ankle and sprained left big toe. He said the right foot was sore after Thursday night's game against Dallas.

"Yeah, it's tough, but I'll figure it out," he said. "Just got to get through it, keep getting treatment, and talk to trainers tomorrow to see what we can do to make it better."

Presti said it's normal to have some discomfort after the surgery, but it was supposed to dissipate as the bone healed. Instead, the pain increased. The team tried to manage the soreness, but couldn't. The Thunder checked with his original surgeon, then got a second opinion before deciding what to do.

Presti said the rubbing has not created nothing more than discomfort with the cuboid bone, and there is not a new injury. He said transferring to a different screw would not be possible if the initial injury had not been healing properly.

"While he's on the floor and playing through the soreness, he's in no way putting at risk the initial injury," Presti said. "Otherwise, he would not have been on the floor."

AP

Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) shoots between Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki, left, and center Tyson Chandler (6) in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Thursday, Feb. 19, 2015.

James Hahn wins Riviera in a playoff

Northern Trust Open

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Surrounded by stars in the city and on the golf course, James Hahn turned in the performance of his life Sunday at the Northern Trust Open.

In trouble behind the 10th green at Riviera in a three-man playoff, he hit a flop shot over the back bunker and made a 10-foot putt to stay in the game when Dustin Johnson hit a shot that was even better. On the third extra hole, Hahn remembered the subtle break and holed a 25-foot birdie putt.

He was too nervous to watch Johnson try to match the birdie from 12 feet.

And he was too stunned to dance.

By closing with a tough par for a 2-under 69, and making two birdies in the playoff, Hahn captured his first PGA Tour title and earned his first trip to the Masters.

Until Sunday, he was best known as the guy who did the "Gangnam Style" dance before the crazies on the 16th hole at Phoenix. On Sunday, he was amazed and humbled at what hit him at Riviera just as the Academy Awards was getting started.

His story is fit for Hollywood.

Hahn once sold shoes at a high-end department store to make a living. He was on the verge of giving up on golf in 2008 when he was down to his last $200 and decided then to work a little harder. And he then he won a PGA Tour event in a playoff over Johnson and Paul Casey, weaving his way through traffic on the back nine in which seven players had at least a share of the lead.

"I never would have thought I would win this tournament," Hahn said.

It looked like it would belong to so many others.

Johnson, in his third tournament back from his six-month break for "personal challenges," had gone 21 holes without a bogey and was tied for the lead with Sergio Garcia with a lob wedge for his third shot to the par-5 17th. He hit into a bunker and made bogey, and then narrowly missed a 10-foot birdie putt on the 18th to win it. He shot 69.

Casey made a late surge only to bogey the last hole for a 68. Hahn joined with at 6-under 278 with a tough up-and-down for par on the 18th, not even realizing it would be enough to get into a playoff.

Garcia was playing the 17th behind them and had a one-shot lead. But the Spaniard three-putted from 50 feet on the fringe for a bogey, and then chipped weakly to 25 feet on the 18th for another bogey and 71.

AP

James Hahn poses with his trophy after winning the Northern Trust Open golf tournament on the third hole of a playoff at Riviera Country Club, Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015, in Los Angeles.

"I've always been truthful to myself and I didn't deserve to win this week. It's as simple as that," Garcia said.

Jordan Spieth, who four-putted from just off the green at No. 4, thought he needed to be at 7 under to have a chance and nearly chipped in on the 18th. But it ran 6 feet by the hole, and he missed that one for a bogey and a 70 to finish one shot out of the playoff. So did Hideki Matsuyama (67) and Keegan Bradley (68).

So much went right for Hahn, and it was a long time coming for the 33-year-old from Cal, born in South Korea and raised in the Bay Area.

"Hats off to James, making a long putt like that," Johnson said. "I played with him all day, so I knew he was rolling the putter really well."

Three pars on the 18th in the playoff sent them to the 10th hole, which was 310 yards of trouble and terror. Casey had the best shot, a 3-wood in the collection area left of the green. He pitched to 15 feet. Johnson and Hahn were in the wet rough behind the green.

"I didn't think I would have the longest birdie putt after seeing where those guys were," Casey said. "But those guys played phenomenal recoveries, absolutely brilliant."

Hahn pitched to 10 feet, and Johnson followed him with a shot into 3 feet.

Johnson had the advantage again on the par-3 14th, the third extra hole, until Hahn poured in what turned out to be the winning putt.

He was even more excited about what happens next, and he wasn't talking about his first trip to Augusta National. His wife, Stephanie, is expecting their first child the week after the World Golf Championship at Doral. Even if Hahn stays eligible, he said he won't play.

First, he has to pick out a name for his daughter.

"I'm going to have to talk to my wife about `Riviera.' I think that's a good name," Hahn said.

Retief Goosen, the 54-hole leader, held on as long as he could until a horrid stretch on the back nine. The 46-year-old South African, going for his first victory in nearly six years, went from the trees on the left to the trees on the right and made double bogey on No. 13. He followed with two more bogeys. Only a pair of birdies at the end salvaged an otherwise miserable final round and he closed with a 75.

ijay Singh, who turned 52 on Sunday, was tied for the lead with a beautiful bunker shot to 10 feet on No. 10 for birdie. He didn't made another birdie the rest of the way, fell back with a bogey on the 15th as the rain started to pound Riviera, and then taking double bogey on the par-3 16th. He shot 72.

Bae Sang-Moon also was tied for the lead until bogeys on the 11th and 12th holes. He closed with a 72 and tied for eighth.

Red Sox extend manager John Farrell's contract through 2017

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP)—The Boston Red Sox hoped to work out a new deal for manager John Farrell before they opened camp.

They nearly got it done.

So while Boston pitchers and catchers held their first official workout Saturday, the team announced that Farrell's contract had been extended through the 2017 season, with a team option for 2018.

"On behalf of ownership, there's no question in our mind John is the right man to manage this team," general manager Ben Cherington said. "We want him to be here for a long time given that he's in the final year of the contract he signed here."

"We wanted to get something done prior to spring training.

"We almost made it. First day of camp," he said.

The 52-year-old Farrell took over the Red Sox after a last-place finish and guided them to the World Series championship in 2013. Boston slid back to the bottom of the AL East last year with a 71-91 record.

The Red Sox made several big moves in the offseason, signing All-Star free agents Pablo Sandoval and Hanley Ramirez and trading for pitcher Rick Porcello.

After the Red Sox concluded their workout, Cherington and Farrell sat in the shade of JetBlue Park and talked about the deal.

"Well, first and foremost I'm ecstatic about the extension," Farrell said.

Boston is coming off a rocky season in which it used 55 players, including 19 rookies. A year earlier, the Red Sox went 97-65 while winning their third World Series crown in 10 seasons.

Red Sox fans are counting on a big bounceback.

"We don't take for granted one moment what the expectations are and how we have to deliver on those expectations," Farrell said.

Cherington reiterated that Farrell is an outstanding fit for the Red Sox.

"I think you guys know a lot goes into the manager's job in Boston," Cherington said. "What happens between inning 1 and 9 is just a small part."

"Yes, you have to make decisions during a game, but you got to be able to communicate with all sorts of different people - players, staff, front office, ownership and external, too," he said. "You've got to be able to handle difficult situations with honesty, with integrity. You got to be accountable. You got to have credibility, respect from all those different people that you're working with. And John has the ability to do all those things."

Farrell was Boston's pitching coach for four seasons under manager Terry Francona before becoming Toronto's manager for 2011-12.

In four years as a major league manager, his record is 322-326.

Farrell returned to the Red Sox in October 2012 and signed a three-year contract through 2015. Boston got Farrell and pitcher David Carpenter from Toronto for infielder Mike Aviles.

Farrell had been under contract to the Blue Jays through 2013.

The former pitcher played eight seasons in the majors, going a combined 36-46 with a 4.56 ERA for Cleveland, the Angels and Detroit.

While the first full workout is scheduled for Wednesday, Farrell said 52 of the 57 players invited to spring training were on the premises Saturday.

"The energy is very good," Farrell said.

Among the position players reporting early to camp was star second baseman Dustin Pedroia, who was limited to 135 games last year because of thumb and wrist problems. His 2014 season was cut short in September to have surgery.

Pedroia hit .278 last year, dropping his career average to .299. He's excited about Boston's new additions and embraces the challenge this season.

"I like it," Pedroia said. "I understand it. I get it. If you don't perform well as a team and win, there's consequences. That's how you should be and that's the way I play."

SIDEBAR

Giants manager Bochy returns to camp after heart procedure

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Bruce Bochy watched Giants pitchers and catchers while a song by Waylon Jennings wafted over the sound system at Scottsdale Stadium.

All was OK for the San Francisco manager.

Bochy rejoined the World Series champions Sunday, three days after having a heart procedure.

"I couldn't feel any better," Bochy said. "I am grateful for the doctors and want to thank all the well-wishers who sent me messages."

The 59-year-old Bochy had two stents placed near his heart on Thursday night.

Doctors had told Bochy to stay from the ballpark for a few days. He slipped back into his office on Saturday.

Bochy said he didn't feel good for much of the winter, but he added: ""It wasn't like I was crushing barbecue every night."

After he took his annual spring physical on Wednesday, Bochy followed the suggestion of team physician Robert Murray and team trainer Dave Groeschner and headed over to the Scottsdale Healthcare Osborn Medical Center.

"I go in and the next thing I know, I'm getting stents put in," he said.

Bench coach Ron Wotus supervised the workouts while Bochy was away. Wotus had Bruce Springsteen music piped into the ballpark in the interim—with Bochy back on the field, his favorite country songs took over.

"That was nice for him to make the change (back to country) for me," Bochy said.

"I kind of felt guilty sitting out for two days. But Ronnie has been here and I knew it would go like clockwork. Guys like him and the entire staff make it so much easier," he said.

Bochy has guided the Giants to three World Series crowns and is starting his 21st season as a big league manager.

Bochy won't be allowed to work out for a few weeks, and that likely will include missing his daily ritual of throwing batting practice. There are no dietary restrictions that he is aware of, "and I can even have a glass of wine if I want. I got a note from the people up in Napa (County, home of many wineries) saying that I could still drink the red."

Bochy's father passed away in 1990 because of heart problems. Bochy said he tried not to think about that.

"You try not to let that control you. You've got to live your life," he said, noting that he has been having cardiac checkups for about the last 10 years.

Bochy said he was still behind in responding to all the texts and emails. One was from longtime third base coach and friend Tim Flannery, who retired after last season.

"He was great," Bochy said. "He sent me a text saying, "I'm praying for ya. I love ya.'"

Bochy said he was eager for the upcoming season.

"There's a couple hundred thousand miles left on the old truck," Bochy said.

FIVB-VCP teachers training course in March

The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association applied to the FIVB Volleyball Cooperation Program (VCP) with the FIVB Development Office again this year.

NMIVA's application for a repeat of the Teacher's Training Certification course was approved for March 19-24. NMIVA delivered this course previously in 2010.

NMIVA has worked closely with Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization these past several years supporting and helping guide MISO's expansion of its volleyball program.

As a result, NMIVA has seen increased volleyball interest at the elementary and junior high school grade levels.

After meeting and discussing further growth and direction objectives with MISO, NMIVA asked the FIVB to approve bringing this course back to the CNMI.

Ordinarily, national federations may qualify for VCP courses only once every two years. However, this will be the NMI's third consecutive year to be approved for a VCP certification course.

Last year, NMIVA hosted an Indoor Referee Certification that saw 20 participants. In 2013, it was a Grassroots Beach Volleyball course. Prior to that in 2010, NMIVA hosted the Teachers Training course. In 2008, NMIVA hosted the Level I Coaches Training course.

Consecutive approvals are a sign from the FIVB that it sees that the CNMI's national federation is growing our sport rapidly.

The Federation Internationale de Volleyball or FIVB is the world's governing body for the sport. It is the highest place of authority to reach for sanctioning of anything related to volleyball or beach volleyball in the world from the grassroots to the Olympic level.

The VCP course we are hosting and its curriculum comes directly from their development office (http://www.fivb.org/EN/Development/Volleyball_Cooperation_Programme.asp).

Course details can be found here: FIVB VCP Teacher's Training Course. Registration forms will be available here for download 1-week before the first day of class.

"We look forward to welcoming this year's VCP course instructor Dr. Christian Kroger coming to us from Germany where he works as a Professor at University of Kiel. Please take a look at his credentials, which you can find at the lower part of the course description," NMIVA said in a statement.

NMIVA will be offering the following incentives for teacher participation from each CNMI school. Maximum of 30 participants, public and/or private school teachers welcome.

■ 1 school, 1 participant = will receive 2 volleyballs for their school

■ 1 school, 2 participants = will receive 5 volleyballs for their school

■ 1 school, Cool Volley Event w/ NMIVA support = will receive 1 volleyball net for their school

If you'd like to let us know that you are interested, please click on "going" on NMIVA's Facebook event page.

You can also contact us at https://www.facebook.com/NMIVolleyball or training.programs@nmivolleyball.org. ***(NMIVA)***

UFO caging meeting today

Representatives of teams participating in the 2015 United Filipino Organization Basketball League are requested to attend a meeting tonight at 6pm at JHEM's Restaurant.

Details of the opening day, which has been moved to March 15, tournament and ground rules, and other important matters will be discussed at the meeting.

This year's UFO caging will hold competitions in four divisions: Open, Masters, U15, and U20. Seven teams have already signed up for the Masters division, while the Open category has lured six. The youth division has seven teams with the U15 drawing four and U20 getting three. The league is only accepting a maximum of eight squads per division.

Each team is required to submit only a 12-player roster and settle the following registration fees: $600 for Open, $550 for Masteers, $400 in U20, and $350 in U15.

Squads playing in the opening day will be determined via raffle drawing with the first match featuring teams in the U15 division. The Masters division game is next, followed by the U21, and Open categories.

For more information, contact Bong Malasarte at 287-5525, Pepe Crisostomo at 483-1997, Ed Manalili at 483-4337, Marlon Regaton at 989-9836 or Pete Reyes at 989-7317 or send email to ufo.saipan@gmail.com. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

San Diego mayor, Chargers owner meet to talk stadium plans

LOS ANGELES (AP)— San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer and Chargers Chairman Dean Spanos met on Sunday and afterward announced that a mayor's advisory committee will speed up its work and present a stadium plan to the team within three months that could keep it from moving to the Los Angeles area.

The one-hour morning meeting at the Padres' Petco Park came after a surprise announcement last week that the Chargers and Oakland Raiders are planning a joint stadium in Carson outside Los Angeles if they fail to get stadium deals in their hometowns.

Both sides said the plan to spur on the work of the city advisory committee is a step forward toward reaching a deal.

Faulconer said he's committed to keeping the team but equally devoted to the city's financial standing.

"Like thousands of San Diegans, I want the Chargers to stay in our city for generations to come," the mayor said in a statement. "I explained to Mr. Spanos that we are going to work to keep the team here, but I will never support a deal that San Diego can't afford."

A Chargers statement on the meeting said that the team also remains "committed to finding a publicly acceptable stadium solution here in San Diego," but it emphasized that the team "must create other options for itself in the event that an agreement is not reached."

The Chargers have sought to replace the nearly 50-year-old Qualcomm Stadium that now stands among the NFL's oldest as other West Coast teams like the Seattle Seahawks and San Francisco 49ers see sparkling new facilities.

They have struggled with a City Hall that has been reluctant to part with public money for a new home.

THEA

From Page 28

New Guinea's Lorish Puluspene complete the squad that former Pacific Oceania Junior ITF development officer Dan O'Connell coaches.

Minor is looking forward to playing in another level and is confident that despite their shorthanded roster they will still succeed because of the team's chemistry. All four played in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships for years.

"I am feeling challenged as we will have the opportunity to play against competitive junior colleges. I am also excited to play my first collegiate match," the 19-year-old Minor said.

"We may not have a full team to start off this season, but I am confident we will all do well and give our best in the court, showing good results at the end of the day. Amanda may not be the best player on the team, but with her encouragement and good team spirit our coach has chosen her as captain to lead our ladies team for this season," Minor added.

The many-time CNMI junior national team player is dedicating her collegiate debut to her supporters and fellow Commonwealth players.

"This debut is for my friends, family, and fellow players on Saipan. I would specifically dedicate this to my mom, Joy Minor, for she is the reason I am here playing. She sacrificed her time to coach and train me for the past 12 years and with her coaching and guidance, I am given the opportunity to earn a full scholarship to study and play tennis in the U.S.," Minor said.

The former CNMI top U18 player hopes more players from the island will also have a chance to play collegiate tennis and encourages them to continue improving their skills.

"Keep playing and working because if I can reach my dream of playing college tennis you can, too. Tennis is not an easy sport to keep up with and I applaud you for still playing I know what everyone is going through trying to win every single match. There are pressures and lots of training/practice, but don't give up because someday you will get a chance and all the hard work will be worth it," Minor said.

After the weekend games in Texas, Minor and company will be busy in the next two months, traveling and competing in the region. From March 5 to 7, they are slated to meet Western New Mexico University, Mesa Community College, and Glendale Community College. They will also have matches from March 13 to 15 with their opponents to be announced later, while from March 30 to April 1 and 3, the Broncos will play against Mt. San Antonio and Glendale College, respectively, Then on April 7 and 21 O'Connell's crew will duel University of the Southeast.

If the Broncos make the grade, they will be able to compete in the NJCAA National Championships scheduled for May 4 and 8 in Tucson, Arizona.

MANGLONA

From Page 28

"I plan to continue training hard. To build my credentials, so that one day, when I come back on Saipan, I may be able to take my knowledge back home and spread it," said Manglona in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

"I plan to also continue working hard to open doors of opportunities, to test and show my skills while competing at the highest levels possible," added the former Tinian resident.

For now, his next plan is to prepare for the North American Grappling Association Phoenix Grappling Championship, which is the world's biggest submission tournament, set on Feb. 28. He also competed in the 10th Arizona International Open from Feb. 22 to 23.

Manglona's mixed martial arts career has gone a long way since being introduced by his high school social studies teacher, Mark Mendiola, in his sophomore year in 2005. Mendiola was a big fan of MMA and taught Manglona better ways on how to resolve confrontation.

"Trench Tech promoter Cuki Alvarez then called me up sometime in August 2007, asking if I wanted to compete in the Rites of Passage III event on Saipan," said Manglona.

Manglona won his MMA debut at the age of 17 by knocking out Arnold Balbin. "I was hooked then ever since."

But the call of military service came and Manglona decided to enlist with the U.S. Air Force at the Guam Recruiting office nine months after graduating from high school in 2008.

The last time he was in the CNMI was in August 2012 when he came to Tinian following a death in the family.

He last competed in a Pacific Xtreme Combat event on Oct. 29, 2011, in Guam where he lost by submission on a rear-naked chokehold by Ryan Biggler.

Manglona has also won numerous titles, championships and medals in an almost 10-year fighting career. The latest was the 2015 United Grappling Federation California State Grappling Championships.

He is the reigning Gorilla Warfare Middleweight champion and topped the cruiserweight division in the 2010 Joint Base Balad Combatives Championship while stationed in Iraq. This is aside from winning a number of gold, silver, and bronze medals from four states and three different countries.

The MMA Lab Professional Fight team member is a three-stripe jiu-jitsu purple belt under Royce Gracie and a black belter under John Crouch.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	37	18	.673	–
Brooklyn	22	31	.415	14
Boston	20	33	.377	16
Philadelphia	12	43	.218	25
New York	10	45	.182	27
Southeast Division				
Atlanta	44	12	.786	–
Washington	33	23	.589	11
Miami	23	31	.426	20
Charlotte	22	32	.407	21
Orlando	19	39	.328	26
Central Division				
Chicago	35	21	.625	–
Cleveland	35	22	.614	½
Milwaukee	31	24	.564	3½
Detroit	23	33	.411	12
Indiana	23	33	.411	12

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	40	14	.741	–
Houston	37	18	.673	3½
Dallas	38	20	.655	4
San Antonio	34	21	.618	6½
New Orleans	28	27	.509	12½
Northwest Division				
Portland	36	19	.655	–
Oklahoma City	31	25	.554	5½
Utah	20	34	.370	15½
Denver	20	35	.364	16
Minnesota	12	42	.222	23½
Pacific Division				
Golden State	43	10	.811	–
L.A. Clippers	37	19	.661	7½
Phoenix	29	27	.518	15½
Sacramento	19	35	.352	24½
L.A. Lakers	14	41	.255	30

NORTHERN TRUST OPEN SCORES

LOS ANGELES (AP)–Scores Sunday in the $6.7-million Northern Trust Open, a US PGA Tour event at 7,349-yard, par-71 Riviera Country Club:

FINAL

x-James Hahn (500), $1,206,000	66-74-69-69–278
Paul Casey (245), $589,600	70-69-71-68–278
Dustin Johnson (245), $589,600	70-72-67-69–278
Keegan Bradley (109), $263,813	73-68-70-68–279
Sergio Garcia (109), $263,813	71-69-68-71–279
Hideki Matsuyama (109), $263,813	70-72-70-67–279
Jordan Spieth (109), $263,813	69-70-70-70–279
Sang-Moon Bae (78), $187,600	71-71-66-72–280
Graham DeLaet (78), $187,600	70-67-70-73–280
Retief Goosen (78), $187,600	66-70-69-75–280
Kyle Reifers (78), $187,600	72-70-71-67–280
Blayne Barber (63), $147,400	74-71-71-65–281
Vijay Singh (63), $147,400	66-74-69-72–281
Jim Furyk (55), $110,550	71-70-68-73–282
Matt Jones (55), $110,550	70-72-72-68–282
William McGirt (55), $110,550	68-74-73-67–282
Brendan Steele (55), $110,550	74-70-69-69–282
Brendon Todd (55), $110,550	69-72-71-70–282
Bubba Watson (55), $110,550	70-69-70-73–282
Hunter Mahan (51), $83,750	75-67-71-70–283
Carlos Ortiz (51), $83,750	67-73-68-75–283
Adam Hadwin (46), $58,793	73-71-71-69–284
Morgan Hoffmann (46), $58,793	69-75-66-74–284
J.B. Holmes (46), $58,793	70-69-69-76–284
Scott Langley (46), $58,793	73-71-71-69–284
Ryan Moore (46), $58,793	69-68-72-75–284
Seung-Yul Noh (46), $58,793	71-69-73-71–284
Vaughn Taylor (46), $58,793	74-68-68-74–284
Nick Watney (46), $58,793	66-74-74-70–284
Charley Hoffman (37), $38,116	76-68-71-70–285
D.A. Points (37), $38,116	71-73-70-71–285
Alex Prugh (37), $38,116	70-73-70-72–285
Daniel Summerhays (37), $38,116	66-74-73-72–285
Camilo Villegas (37), $38,116	73-69-71-72–285
Angel Cabrera (37), $38,116	70-68-71-76–285
K.J. Choi (37), $38,116	70-74-73-68–285
Harris English (37), $38,116	72-69-71-73–285
Chris Stroud (37), $38,116	73-71-72-69–285
Tom Hoge (32), $29,480	74-70-72-70–286
Brian Stuard (32), $29,480	71-71-71-73–286
Jason Kokrak (28), $24,120	71-72-74-70–287
Bryce Molder (28), $24,120	71-70-76-70–287
Pat Perez (28), $24,120	69-73-70-75–287
Charl Schwartzel (28), $24,120	71-70-75-71–287
Justin Thomas (28), $24,120	68-69-75-75–287
Jimmy Walker (28), $24,120	73-71-71-72–287
Ken Duke (24), $18,894	72-70-70-76–288
Cameron Tringale (24), $18,894	71-74-71-72–288
Jason Gore (19), $16,233	73-70-73-73–289
Jonathan Randolph (19), $16,233	72-73-68-76–289
Ricky Barnes (19), $16,233	71-74-72-72–289
Chad Campbell (19), $16,233	74-71-71-73–289
Matt Every (19), $16,233	70-72-74-73–289
Geoff Ogilvy (19), $16,233	68-76-75-70–289
Andrew Putnam (19), $16,233	73-69-74-73–289
Tony Finau (13), $15,008	70-70-77-73–290
Padraig Harrington (13), $15,008	70-73-76-71–290
Justin Leonard (13), $15,008	75-70-70-75–290
Spencer Levin (13), $15,008	73-72-71-74–290
Shawn Stefani (13), $15,008	74-71-74-71–290
Derek Fathauer (8), $14,338	66-73-77-75–291
Russell Henley (8), $14,338	74-71-69-77–291
Charles Howell III (8), $14,338	71-70-75-75–291
Kevin Na (8), $14,338	72-72-72-75–291
Michael Putnam (8), $14,338	70-72-70-79–291
Scott Stallings (5), $13,936	70-75-73-75–293
Alex Cejka (4), $13,735	68-77-71-78–294
Carl Pettersson (4), $13,735	71-72-75-76–294
Charlie Beljan (1), $13,400	72-72-74-78–296
Danny Lee (1), $13,400	70-73-77-76–296
George McNeill (1), $13,400	71-74-74-77–296
Gonzalo Fdez-Castano (1), $13,132	71-74-74-78–297
Andrew Svoboda (1), $12,998	72-73-72-81–298
Brandt Snedeker (1), $12,864	73-72-79-75–299
Jhonattan Vegas (1), $12,730	71-72-81-76–300

x-won on 3rd playoff hole

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nakamura tosses no-hitter in Comets win

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Franko Nakamura pitched a gem of a game in the Seniors division, tossing a no-hitter in guiding the Comets to a 14-0 shutout win over the Braves in Sunday's Saipan Little League action at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Nakamura tossed a five-inning match, striking out nine batters he faced and walking one.

The Comets tallied 14 hits and used an eight-run fourth-inning to complete the win in the shortened match.

Nakamura also scored two times in a 2-for-4 appearance at the plate with an RBI double and a triple, while Justin Lisua and J-Boy Mendiola also went 2-for-4 with the former touching home plate twice and had an RBI single while the latter made one run and had a double.

Ton Ilo, 2-for-3, had a run, three RBIs, and a two triples including a two-RBI triple in the third inning. Austin Hocog circled the bases twice and had an RBI single, in the fourth going 2-for-3.

JON PEREZ

The Falcons Kyle Kapileo pitched a complete game in guiding their team to its third win in four starts in the Major division of the Saipan Little League Baseball on Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan ballfield.

JUNIOR DIVISION
Falcons 20, Red Sox 10

Joe Tudela was a home run shy of hitting for the cycle in the Falcons' victory over the Red Sox.

Tudela had two singles, a double, and a triple in a perfect 4-for-4 appearance at the plate. He scored three runs and had two RBIs including an RBI double in the Falcons' 11-run third inning.

The Falcons' bullpen—composed of Ace Evangelista and Jester Kintaro—held the Red Sox to seven earned runs on six hits fanning eight and walking nine batters.

MAJOR DIVISION
Falcons 17, Kagboys 0

Kyle Kapileo had a no-relief job on the mound in the Falcons' shutout win over the Kagboys to improve to 3-1.

Kapileo held the Kagboys to three hits with seven strikeouts and one walk in the shortened four-inning match.

Jonathan Ringuel had a perfect 3-for-3 plate appearance with a double and two runs, while Aven Evangelista went 3-for-4 with three runs and a double in the third.

Braves 21, Padres 1

Antonio Norita pitched a three-inning one-hit game giving up one run while striking out nine batters and walking one.

Anthony Dizon came in the fourth to close out for the Braves retiring Zachary Manalo, Maximus Gabionza, and Jylon Sablan, respectively.

Dizon and Josenio Alvarez both went 2-for-3 with the former scoring twice with a double and two RBIs, while the latter had a pair of singles and had three runs. Vicente Camacho also made three runs in a 2-for-4 plate appearance.

IT&E Comets 29, Jets 1

Jason Reyes pitched four no-hit innings as the IT&E Comets grounded the Jets. He struck out eight and walked three batters.

Alvin Hocog went 4-for-6 with four runs and a double while Ross Ariola, 2-for-3, had four runs and two doubles.

Eye Sees, Jake Catering win DLX opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eye Sees and Jake Catering started their bid in the 2015 DLX Invitational Basketball League on a high note after routing their respective foes last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Eye Sees and Mawati played in the league's opening game with the former walking away with a 62-47 victory, while Jake Catering had a similar easy win over Team Compound, 70-56, in the second match of the night.

Jake Catering made up for its second-quarter meltdown with a strong finish, scoring 27 points against the only 12 of Team Compound for a 14-point winning margin.

Jake Catering once held a double-digit lead, 19-8, but tallied only 7 points in the second to lose the upper hand and was still behind, 43-44, after the third period. In the fourth, Jake Catering went all out to spoil Team Compound's debut.

The backcourt duo of White Capalad and Ferrick Aguon teamed up in Jake Catering's solid fourth quarter with the former firing 11 points and the latter adding 9. Capalad led all scorers with his 28 markers, while Aguon also finished in twin digits with 21.

The 27 points were Jake Catering's biggest in the quarter, while Team Compound had its most points in the second (22) to grab the upper hand at the break, 30-26. Kelvin Fitial paced Team Compound with his 23 points, while Richard Ada contributed 12.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jake Catering's White Capalad unloads a short jumper as Team Compound's Richard Ada steps in late for defense during the second quarter of their game in the DLX league last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

In the first game, Eye Sees also saved its best for last to take the 15-point winning margin.

Eye Sees came to play right from the get-go, but could not pull away from Mawati in the first three periods before finally getting the breaks in the fourth.

Ahead by only 8 after three quarters, 46-38, Eye Sees leaned on Angelo Fernando's string of baskets to slowly break the game wide open. Fernando opened the fourth with three straight baskets and added two more late in the final quarter to hand Eye Sees the easy win.

Fernando had a game-high 28 points, while Myler David chipped in 12. No Mawati player broke into double figures with Ian Larot drilling only 9 markers.

First Game

Eye Sees 62 – Fernando 28, David 12, Quemado 8, Alcantara 3, Muleta 4, Directo 4, Espinosa 2.

Mawati 47 – Larot 9, Enriquez 8, Gontar 8, Nonato 8, Reyes 5, Corotan 2, Rejano 2, Rivera 1.

Scoring by quarters: 13-9, 29-28, 46-38, 62-47.

Second Game

Jake Catering 70 – Capalad 28, Aguon 21, Gunnacao 7, Dayrit 5, Rejano 4, Lagado 4, Garcia 2.

Team Compound 56 – Fitial 23, Ada 12, Camacho 8, C. Nicholas 4, Saures 2, B. Nicholas 2, Cruz 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-8, 26-30, 43-44, 70-56.

Saipan Ice edges IT&E for first win in biz caging

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Saipan Ice & Water outlasted IT&E, 68-64, to finally barge in the win column of the Inter-Commercial Business Basketball League 2015 last Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Patrick Rotap and John Santy alternated in delivering the points for Saipan Ice for its first win after consecutive blowout losses against Mobil/JP World on Feb. 5 (86-54) and Pacific Islands Club-Saipan (103-48) last Feb. 10.

Rotap and Santy scored all of Saipan Ice's 16 points, 8 markers each, in the final period to escape with the win.

Saipan Ice seemed headed for the easy win when it built a 16-point spread after 10 minutes of play, 27-11.

But IT&E, behind J.R. Renguul and Ehrol Peredo's game-long brilliance, kept the game close and even held a slim 53-52 lead entering the final quarter.

That was when Rotap and Santy, who finished with 30 and 24 points each, took over for Saipan Ice.

Renguul top-scored for IT&E with 22 markers, while Peredo chipped in 19 and Jason Palacios contributing 14 more.

In the second game, Preston Basa drained 9 of the Public School System's 11 3-pointers in an 87-69 humbling of Docomo Pacific.

Basa finished with a game-high 37 points for PSS, which broke the game wide open in the second period after holding on to a 17-14 spread after the first quarter.

Docomo failed to keep up with PSS, which stepped on the gas further in the third to never look back.

Maverick Itibus and Jerry Diaz provided scoring support to Basa contributing 17 and 12 markers each.

Tony Diaz and Robert Sanciangco scattered 20 points each for Docomo, while Jay White added 13 markers.

Unbeaten PIC shoots for a third straight win when it faces Saipan Stevedore in tonight's 6:30pm first game, while Saipan Ice tries to nail another victory when it takes on Joeten Enterprises at 8pm.

First Game

Saipan Ice 68 – Rotap 30, Santy 24, Olopai 8, Hernandez 4, Kaipat 2.

IT&E 64 – Renguul 22, Peredo 19, Palacios 14, Aglipay 4, Santos 3, Benavente 2, Bernal 2.

Scoring by quarters: 27-11, 36-34, 52-53, 68-64.

Second Game

PSS 87 – Basa 37, Itibus 17, Diaz 12, Villagomez 8, Tenorio 7, Loste 5, Winkfield 1.

Docomo 69 – Diaz 20, Sanciangco 20, White 13, Hayes 6, Alvarez 4, Sanchez 4, Mendiola 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-14, 38-20, 69-37, 87-69.

Lakers stop 7-game losing streak with OT win over Celtics

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Nakamura tosses no-hitter in Comets win

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Thea makes collegiate debut

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Former CNMI junior tennis player Thea Minor had her collegiate debut over the weekend, suiting up for New Mexico Military Institute in the National Junior College Athletic Association.

Minor and the Broncos women's tennis Division 1 team was scheduled to play Collin College in Plano, Texas last Friday (Saturday on Saipan) for the Super Six Invitational and another squad in Western Junior College Athletic Conference of NJCAA's Region 5 last Sunday (results were unavailable at press time).

The Saipan Southern High School alumna said she is set to play No. 2 in singles for NMMI and partner with No. 1 singles player Lorraine Banimataku of Fiji. Federated States of Micronesia's Amanda Hawkins and Papua

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Thea Minor, right, poses with her teammates and New Mexico Military Institute tennis coach Dan O'Connell before playing in a tournament in Texas over the weekend.

Manglona aims to someday pass his skills

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Though retirement is far from Keli Manglona's mind, the U.S. Air Force Airman has already set his sights of someday passing on the various skills that he learned from years of fighting and training.

Manglona, known as the Airman Warrior of Luke Air Force Base in Glendale, Arizona, said he's been working hard so that he could grab every opportunity that he sees.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Keli Manglona plans to further hone skills and see action in various tournaments to represent the CNMI.

Sakovich named head coach at Bolles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Former Saipan Swim Club swimmer Jon Sakovich was recently named head coach and aquatic director of The Bolles School.

"Jon was the most compelling candidate in an extensive international search. His leadership skills, extraordinary record of success and vision, make him uniquely suited to continue and advance the Bolles' swim program's success," interim Head of School Brad Johnson was quoted as saying in the information sent to *Saipan Tribune* about Sakovich's appointment.

The son of CNMI Sports Hall of Famers Bill and Jean Sakovich was humbled with the appointment and vowed to do his best in ensuring the continued success of the school's program.

"I am honored and excited to lead the Bolles Swim program," Sakovich said. "My family and I have enjoyed being a part of the Bolles community and I am thrilled to continue the development of our swimmers in helping them achieve the highest levels of success."

Sakovich, who owns several CNMI national and age groups records that have been there for more than two decades, took over from Sergio Lopez on acting capacity in December last year before being officially named head coach of the school's swim team and director of its aquatics programs early this month. Sakovich joined Bolles, a college preparatory school in Jacksonville Florida, in 2000 as a staff after serving as head coach of Clearwater Aquatics for four years. He also coached at Florida

Sakovich

Aquatics in Gainesville.

The former Olympian's vast experience both as a swimmer and coach made him the unanimous choice for the head coaching post, beating a strong pool that includes European and local coaches.

"His rich experience and coaching skills demonstrated his ability to enhance the athletic and academic experience of young people and made it clear that Jon was the best candidate to lead this program," incoming President and Head of School Dave Farace said.

Before becoming an Olympian (representing Guam in the 1988 Seoul Olympics), Sakovich donned the colors of the CNMI in various regional and international competitions, such as the Micronesian Games, South Pacific Games, Pan Pacific Games, and FINA World Championships. With his impressive credentials, he earned a spot on the University of Florida swim team. At UF, he got All-American honors and national titles both in the pool and open water races. While swimming in collegiate ranks, Sakovich also brought home a bronze medal for Team USA from the 1995 Pan American Games and represented the U.S. in the 1996 Pan Pacific Championships.